PUELLA MAGI TART★MAGICA

The Legend of "Jeanne d'Arc"

Art by
MASUGITSUNE / KAWAZU-KU

Original Story by
MAGICA QUARTET

PUELLA MAGI TART MAGICA

VOLUME TWO

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Puella Magi Tart Magica The Legend of "Jeanne d'Arc" ② Art by ◎Masugitsune / Kawazu-ku

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LA NUIT, TOUTES LES CHATS SONT GRIS.

PUELLA MAGI

TART MAGICA

The Legend of "Jeanne d'Arc"

VOLUME TWO

NEAR ORLÉANS, FEBRUARY 12, 1429...
Chapter 5
WHAT... HAP-PENED HERE?
COMMANDER OF THE ORLÉANS FORCES. JEAN DE DUNOIS
I THOUGHT... OUR AMBUSH WORKED...
...THOSE MON-STERS!?
WHAT ARE...

OF COURSE, I WOULD EXPECT AS MUCH FROM THE BÂTARD D'ORLÉANS, A MAN GIVEN SUCH AN IMPORTANT COMMAND AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
GU (STRAIN)

YOUR SKILLS AND COORDINATION WERE NOT LACKING; YOU PUT ON A MAGNIFICENT ATTACK.
YOU BROUGHT MORE THAN TWICE THE TROOPS OF THIS SMALL ENGLISH RESUPPLY FORCE.
HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU.

GIRI (GRIND)
KNH...

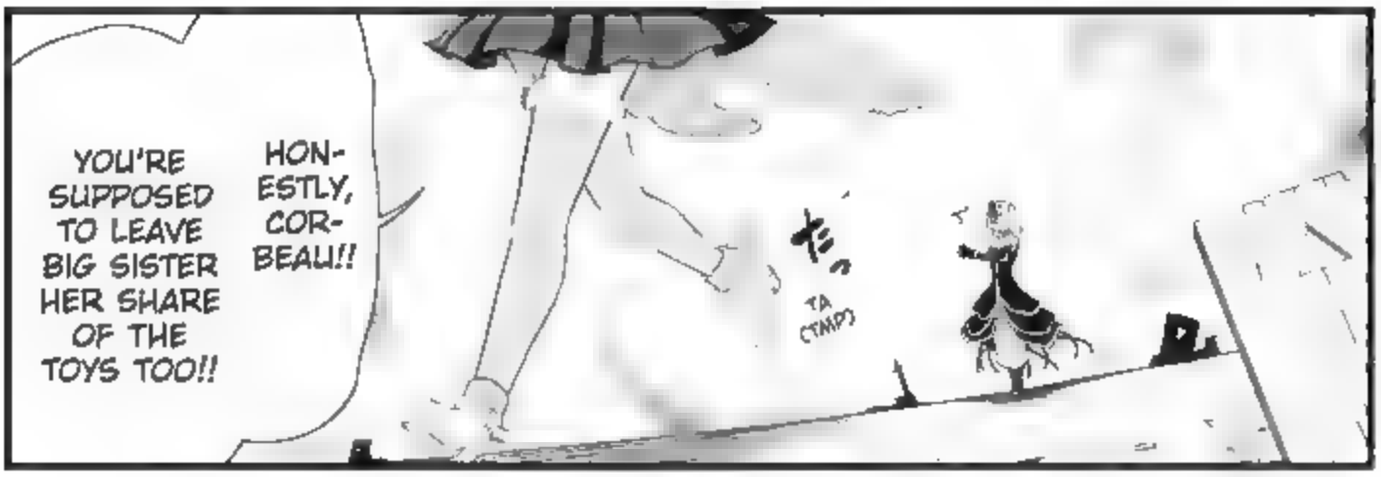
HEE-HEE-HEE!♪ YES, CORBEAU, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
HE DOESN'T EVEN MAKE FOR GOOD SPORT!
HE'S JUST ANOTHER FOOL OF A FRENCH CAPTAIN WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HE'S OUTMATCHED.
HOWEVER MANY THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS HE MAY HAVE GATHERED, THEY ARE NOTHING BUT PAPER DOLLS TO US.
YOU'RE FAR TOO KIND, MINOU.

NOW STAND, MONSIEUR COM-MANDER!
DO YOU FEEL NO SHAME!?
ALL THESE MEN DIED FOR YOU!
GA (STOMP)
WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT TO YOUR IMPOTENT LAST!!?
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, BÂTARD!
GUGU
YOU FILTHY ...

ENTERTAIN US TO YOUR LAST BREATH!!
DON (LUNGE)
HYURURU (WHIRL)
PAN (SMACK)

IF YOU GET YOURSELF HURT, YOUR BIG SISTER WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
LAPIN, SHE'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. CALM YOUR-SELF.
RAAH!
RRR!
HEYYY, COR-BEAU!!
WHO DARES GET IN MY WAY!?
GRR!
WHO DID THAT !?
ZAKU (SHOONK)
ALL RIGHT, MEN! PROTECT THE COM-MANDER !!
ZA (ZSH)
WHAT'S THIS?
NII (GRIN)
にぃっ
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE SO MANY MORE TOY SOLDIERS LEFT FOR ME TO PLAY WITH.

NO! GET AWAY! RUN—


YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE BIG SISTER HER SHARE OF THE TOYS TOO!!
HON-ESTLY, COR-BEAU!!
TA (TMP)

LA HIRE !?
ZA (CLSH)
THERE YOU ARE, MASTER BÂTARD! I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERY-WHERE FOR YOU!

AHH... HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN ...?
YAKU (SLUMP)

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME EVEN IF I HAVE TO CARRY YOU!
GUI (LIFT)
I GET IT, I DO. BUT ORLÉANS IS AS GOOD AS LOST IF YOU DIE!
UNGH...

I CAN'T... I STILL... HAVE MEN ON THE FIELD...
GU (GRIP)
CAN YOU STAND UP? WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
THE LOSING COM-MANDER SHOULD ACCEPT HIS FATE!
OH NO!!
SLI (SWOOSH)
CHAT À NEUF QUEUES!
(CAT OF NINE TAILS)
BI (ZWIP)
URK !!

UWAAAH!!
BO
BO
BO
BO
BO
(BOOM)
(DON, (KABOOM)
KA
KA
(TAK)
BUWAAAAAA
(FSHHHHH)

THERE ARE NO CORPSES.
DID THEY ESCAPE SOME-HOW?
HM?

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE MY FUN IS JUST BEGINNING.
HEH.
WAS THAT ÉTIENNE DE VIGNOLLES, THE MERCENARY THEY CALL, OF ALL THINGS, LA HIRE— "THE RAGE"?

HAAH...
DAMMIT!!
SH-SHE JUST TOOK THREE YEARS OFF MY LIFE!
HAAH...

THE LOIRE RIVER IS A NATURAL BARRIER DIVIDING THE SOUTH OF FRANCE FROM THE NORTH. AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LOIRE IS A PLACE CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN FRANCE, ORLÉANS, WHICH, IN MEDIEVAL TIMES, MAY HAVE BEEN ON A PAR WITH PARIS. IT EVEN CARRIED ITSELF WITH MORE PROSPERITY AND PRIDE THAN THE CAPITAL.

IN THE STRATEGY OF THE ENGLISH/BURGUNDIAN FACTIONS, ORLÉANS WAS A VITAL STEPPING STONE IN THEIR QUEST TO DOMINATE THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. AND THE DAUPHIN CONSIDERED IT HIS LAST STRONGHOLD AGAINST DEFEAT.

THE INVASION OF THE SOUTH HAD BEGUN IN THE YEAR PRIOR, IN JUNE OF 1428, AND BY OCTOBER THE ENGLISH HAD GAINED CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE AREA AROUND ORLÉANS. THE CITY WAS SURROUNDED.

YEAH... OVER FOUR THOUSAND MEN— A HUGE FORCE— AND THEY TOOK THEM OUT LIKE NOTHING...

THEY WIPED OUT OUR FORCES IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.

THOSE WOMEN... ARE UNFATHOMABLY DEADLY.

IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON ORLÉANS, THE DAUPHIN DISPATCHED NOT ONLY HIS KNIGHTS, BUT ALSO A MERCENARY FORCE LED BY THE FAMOUS MERCENARY, CAPTAIN ÉTIENNE DE VIGNOLLES, ALSO KNOWN AS LA HIRE (THE RAGE).

THE DEFENSE OF THE CITY WAS COMMANDED BY 26-YEAR-OLD JEAN DE DUNOIS. BUT HE WAS MORE OFTEN CALLED BÂTARD D'ORLÉANS (THE BASTARD OF ORLÉANS)."

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF NOBILITY WERE OFTEN CALLED "BÂTARD" (BASTARD). HOWEVER IT WAS SIMPLY A NICKNAME AND THERE WAS NOTHING INSULTING IMPLIED IN THE NAME.

AN ARMY OF MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND SOLDIERS WAS SENT TO CHALLENGE THE ENGLISH ARMY OF ABOUT ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEN WHO WERE BRINGING SUPPLIES TO RESTOCK THE BESIEGING ENGLISH FORCES AROUND ORLÉANS. THE SCOTS' OVERWHELMING NUMBERS SEEMED A GUARANTEE OF THEIR VICTORY. BUT...

SEVERAL MONTHS INTO THE HARD-FOUGHT SIEGE, ORLÉANS SOUGHT HELP THROUGH AN ALLIANCE WITH SCOTLAND, WHICH WAS FIGHTING ITS OWN BATTLES WITH ENGLAND AT THE TIME. THE ALLIANCE WAS FORMED, AND A LARGE FORCE OF SCOTTISH TROOPS CAME TO FRANCE.

AS LONG AS WE TWO ARE STILL BREATHING, THERE'S HOPE FOR US YET.
BESIDES, I'M NOT DEAD YET, AND NEITHER ARE YOU.
WHAT OF IT? MERCENARIES ARE USED TO TAKING LOSSES.

MY LORD! I BEG YOU FOR A MIRACLE THAT COULD SAVE ORLÉANS!!

YEAH, THAT'S THE SPIRIT, MASTER BÂTARD!
HEH HEH!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. THE FIRST THING TO BE DONE IS TO RALLY THE SURVIVING TROOPS AND RETREAT BACK TO ORLÉANS.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
...BUT HERE I AM, STILL WAITING, AND I'M TIRED OF IT.
I FEEL SOME ANSWER FROM HIS MAJESTY THE DAUPHIN SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED BY NOW...
GUDE (SLUMP)

THEY HAD SPECIAL HOPES FOR DUKE RENÉ D'ANJOU AS HE WAS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF MARIE D'ANJOU, THE DAUPHIN CHARLES'S WIFE, SO RENÉ WAS CHARLES' BROTHER-IN-LAW. AS SUCH, HE WAS CLOSELY CONNECTED TO THE ROYAL COURT.

TART MADE HER ACQUAINTANCE WITH HIM IN A TOWN CALLED NANCY, A SUBURB IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF VAUCOULEURS, AND WAS BID TO WAIT FOR A FORMAL INVITATION TO CHINON.

AT THE SAME TIME AS THE CRIPPLING DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH AND SCOTTISH FORCES NEAR ORLÉANS, TART AND HER FRIENDS WERE STILL IN VAUCOULEURS.

DOING HIS BEST TO KEEP HIS PROMISE TO TART, BAUDRICOURT SENT HER REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN TO HIS DIRECT SUPERIOR, DUKE RENÉ D'ANJOU, AS WELL AS AN INTRODUCTION OF TART TO THE DUKE, HIS FATHER-IN-LAW AND THE LORD OF LORRAINE.

-The Royal Family Tree-

= Married

Former King of France
Charles VI

The Dauphin's Mother-in-law
Yolande d'Aragon

René's father-in-law
Duke of Lorraine

Dauphin Charles = **Marie d'Anjou** — **Duke René d'Anjou** — Daughter

I WONDER WHAT THAT IS.
ガヤ
GAYA (CHATTER)
ガヤ
GAYA
I HAVE TO MEET THE DAUPHIN AS QUICKLY AS POSS-IBLE.
YOU MUSTN'T WORRY OVER THIS.
BAN
BAN (SLAM)
ガタッ
GATA (CLATTER)
PAA (BEAM)

LA PUCELLE!
COME PLAY WITH US AGAIN!
WHOA!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
YOU ARE TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEALTH, AREN'T YOU?
LA PUCELLE!
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME EGGS THAT WE COLLECTED JUST THIS MORNING. PLEASE HAVE SOME!
わい
WAI
わい
WAI (GIDDY)
SHE'S BEEN VERY POPULAR AROUND HERE. CALLERS EVERY DAY.
すっ
SU (SSK)
I SUPPOSE IT'S A LIFT TO THE SPIRITS OF A PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED BY ENGLAND'S AGGRESSIONS FOR SO LONG, HM?
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HER THAT DRAWS PEOPLE IN.

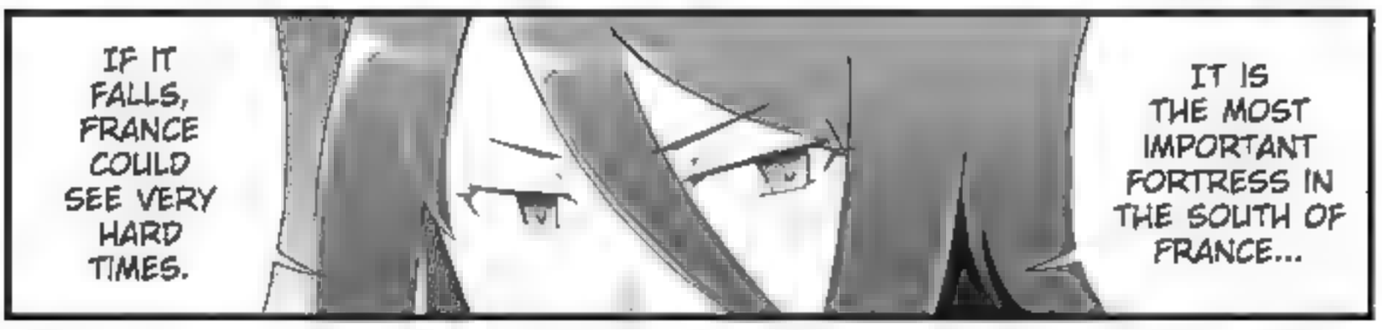
ONLY A MONTH PRIOR, LA PUCELLE FROM DOMREMY SAVED THE TOWN OF VAUCOULEURS AND ITS LORD FROM A VERY STRANGE ATTACK.
THE STORY SPREAD QUICKLY THROUGHOUT VAUCOULEURS. THE TALE BECAME A RUMOR THAT SPREAD FAR AND WIDE BEYOND THE TOWN OF VAUCOULEURS, AND THE SUBJECT OF ALL THE RUMORS, TART, DREW THE EYE OF EVERYONE IN TOWN.
JEANNE LA PUCELLE.
LORD BAUDRICOURT!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
O-OF COURSE!
ZAWA
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU MAKE A PATH?
ZA (ZSH)
ZAWA
THERE'S... BAD NEWS?
SOME OF IT IS GOOD AND SOME IS BAD.
I'VE COME WITH NEWS FOR YOU.

MM...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
IT WOULD ONLY SPREAD UNNECESSARY UNREST WERE THE PEOPLE TO HEAR IT.
UM...
HISO (WHISPER)
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THIS INSIDE?
OF COURSE.
EXCUSE US, BUT I MUST SPEAK TO LA PUCELLE ALONE.
I ASK THAT YOU GIVE US SOME PRIVACY FOR A SHORT WHILE.
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
PATAN (SHUT)

THEN... YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR ME?
YES... FIRST, HOW ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS...?
ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO, A MESSENGER ARRIVED FROM CHINON BEARING YOUR OFFICIAL INVITATION.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LONG WAIT, BUT YOUR AUDIENCE HAS FINALLY BEEN APPROVED.
OH, HAS IT!? IS IT REALLY TRUE, LORD BAUDRICOURT!?

BUT NOW, THE BAD NEWS...
YAAAY!!

THE FRENCH ARMY HAS SUFFERED A TERRIBLE DEFEAT AT ORLÉANS.
AT... ORLÉANS?


IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FORTRESS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE...
IF IT FALLS, FRANCE COULD SEE VERY HARD TIMES.

YES, AND THERE HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE UNUSUAL REPORTS...
A GROUP OF JUST THREE YOUNG GIRLS THWARTED THE ENTIRE ARMY.

THE MESSAGE WAS HASTILY WRITTEN, SO THE INFORMATION IS SUSPECT, BUT EITHER WAY, THE TRUTH IS THAT ORLÉANS IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
THEN I MUST GO TO CHINON IMMEDI-ATELY!
COULD IT BE THAT THEY'RE MAGICAL GIRLS SUPPORTING ENGLAND? OR MAYBE WITCHES?
NO, HUMAN COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
EACH OF THE THREE WIELDED MONSTROUS POWERS, AND THEY CRUSHED OUR FORCES.
YOU'RE KID-DING...
ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)
YES. WE ARE HURRYING TO MAKE PREPARA-TIONS FOR YOUR TRIP.
PATAN (SHUT)

ON FEBRUARY 22ND, 1429, TART FINALLY STARTED ON HER TRIP FROM VAUCOULEURS TO CHINON.
ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF THE TIME, LORD BAUDRICOURT AND THE CITIZENS OF VAUCOULEURS SAW OFF THE ENTOURAGE OF JEANNE LA PUCELLE FROM THE GATE OF FRANCE AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO CHINON.
ZAWA
ZAWA
CHIURMURO
THE LOOK BECOMES YOU, LA PUCELLE.
LORD BAUDRI-COURT... AND THE PEOPLE OF VAUCOU-LEURS...
THIS SEND-OFF AS I BEGIN MY JOURNEY OVER-WHELMS ME...
THERE ARE EXISTING ACCOUNTS OF THE DAY OF HER DEPARTURE.

AND YOU HAVE MY THANKS!!
BA (BOW)

HIHIIN (WHINNY)
WHOA!!
YOU CAN COUNT ON US, LORD BAUDRI-COURT ...

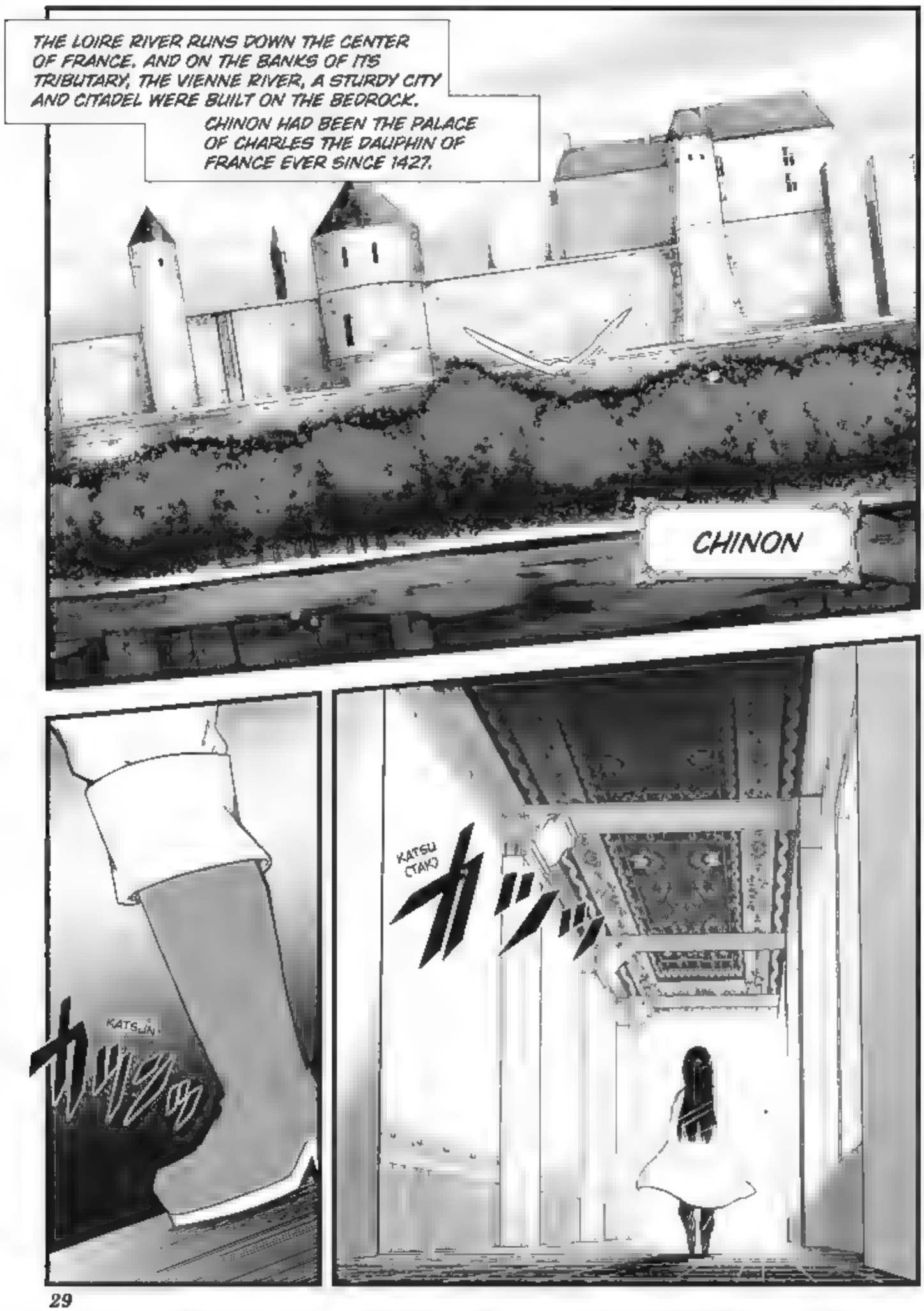
JEAN! BERTRAND! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SEE LA PUCELLE SAFELY TO THE COURT OF CHINON!!

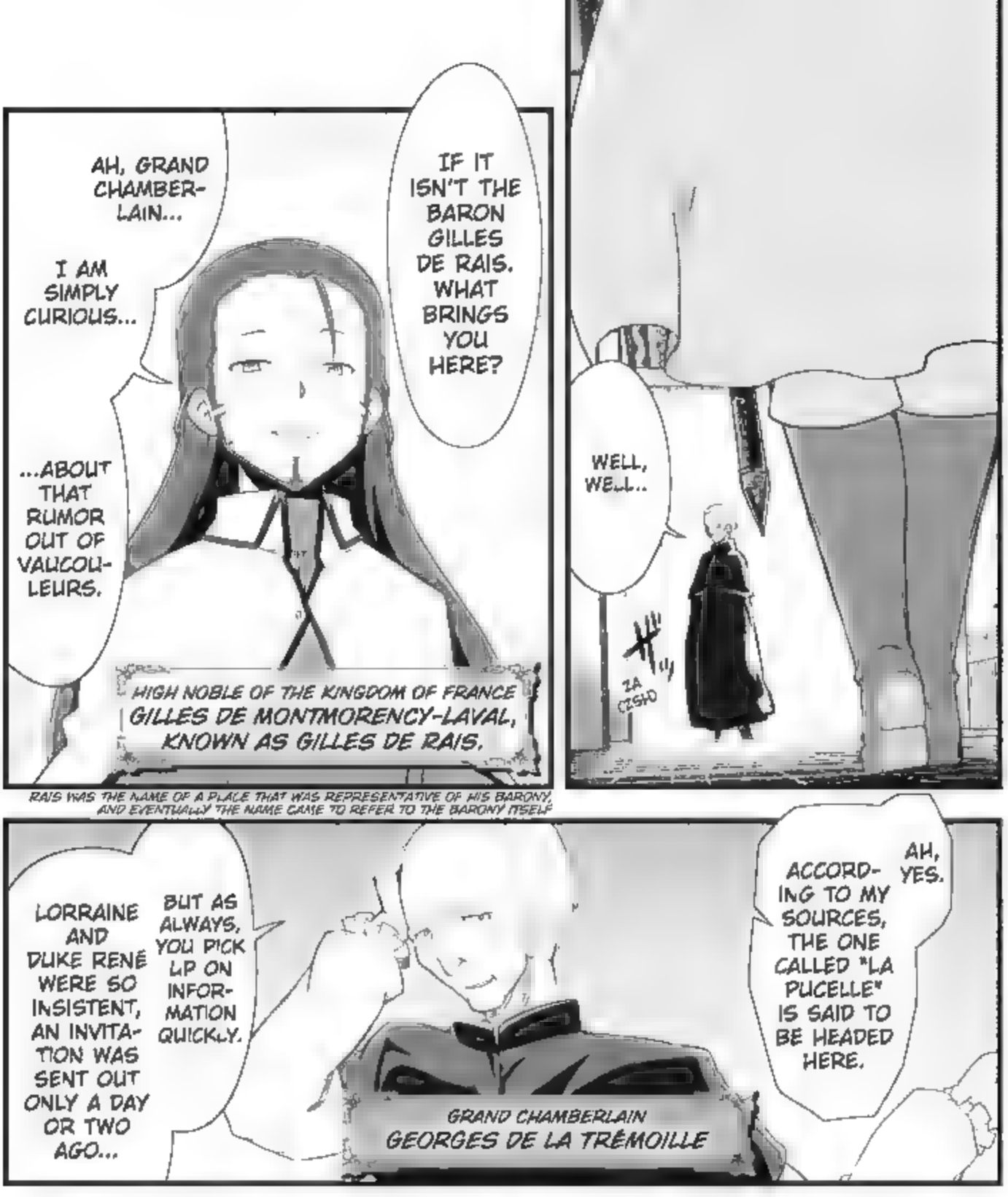
WILL YOU STOP THAT!?
PAKARA (KA-CLOP)
I SAID WHOA!!
THAT IDIOT...

LORD BAUDRICOURT ...
FRANCE, I FEAR, NEEDS A SAVIOR.
LA PUCELLE... I TRULY HOPE YOU CAN HELP HIS MAJESTY THE DAUPHIN.
YES...
PLEASE DO NOT WORRY, LORD. I'LL DO MY PART AND HIS.

SU
SU (SHIFF)
I BELIEVE IN YOU.

VA, VA ET ADVIENNE QUE POURRA...
(GO, GO AND COME WHAT MAY...)


THE LOIRE RIVER RUNS DOWN THE CENTER OF FRANCE. AND ON THE BANKS OF ITS TRIBUTARY, THE VIENNE RIVER, A STURDY CITY AND CITADEL WERE BUILT ON THE BEDROCK.
CHINON HAD BEEN THE PALACE OF CHARLES THE DAUPHIN OF FRANCE EVER SINCE 1427.
CHINON
KATSUJIN
KATSU (TAK)


IF IT ISN'T THE BARON GILLES DE RAIS. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
AH, GRAND CHAMBER-LAIN...
I AM SIMPLY CURIOUS...
...ABOUT THAT RUMOR OUT OF VAUCOU-LEURS.
HIGH NOBLE OF THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE
GILLES DE MONTMORENCY-LAVAL, KNOWN AS GILLES DE RAIS.
WELL, WELL..
ZA CISHO
RAIS WAS THE NAME OF A PLACE THAT WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS BARONY, AND EVENTUALLY THE NAME CAME TO REFER TO THE BARONY ITSELF
LORRAINE AND DUKE RENÉ WERE SO INSISTENT, AN INVITA-TION WAS SENT OUT ONLY A DAY OR TWO AGO...
BUT AS ALWAYS, YOU PICK UP ON INFOR-MATION QUICKLY.
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN
GEORGES DE LA TRÉMOILLE
ACCORD-ING TO MY SOURCES, THE ONE CALLED "LA PUCELLE" IS SAID TO BE HEADED HERE.
AH, YES.
BUT IF, DURING HER AUDIENCE, SHE MAKES ANY FALSE MOVES...
WHY? SHE IS NOTHING BUT SOME COUNTRY BUMPKIN GIRL, IS SHE NOT?
KATSU CTAKO
PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT ALLOWING AN UNKNOWN WOMAN INTO HIS MAJESTY'S PRESENCE IS AN OUTRAGE, BUT...

CHA (CHKK)
THAT IS WHEN I...
SWU (WHIRL)
CHUN (KSHING)

PIKU
PIKU
(TWITCH)

HEH...
NII (SMIRK)
...WILL SHOW YOU HOW QUICKLY I CAN VIVISECT A WOMAN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW IS HIS MAJESTY CHARLES?
ICK.

I AM HAPPY FOR HIS MAJESTY THAT HE INSPIRES SUCH LOYALTY IN YOU.
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW REAS-SURING THAT IS.

HAAH...
IT SEEMS THE NEWS OF OUR DEFEAT AT ORLÉANS HIT HIM HARD.

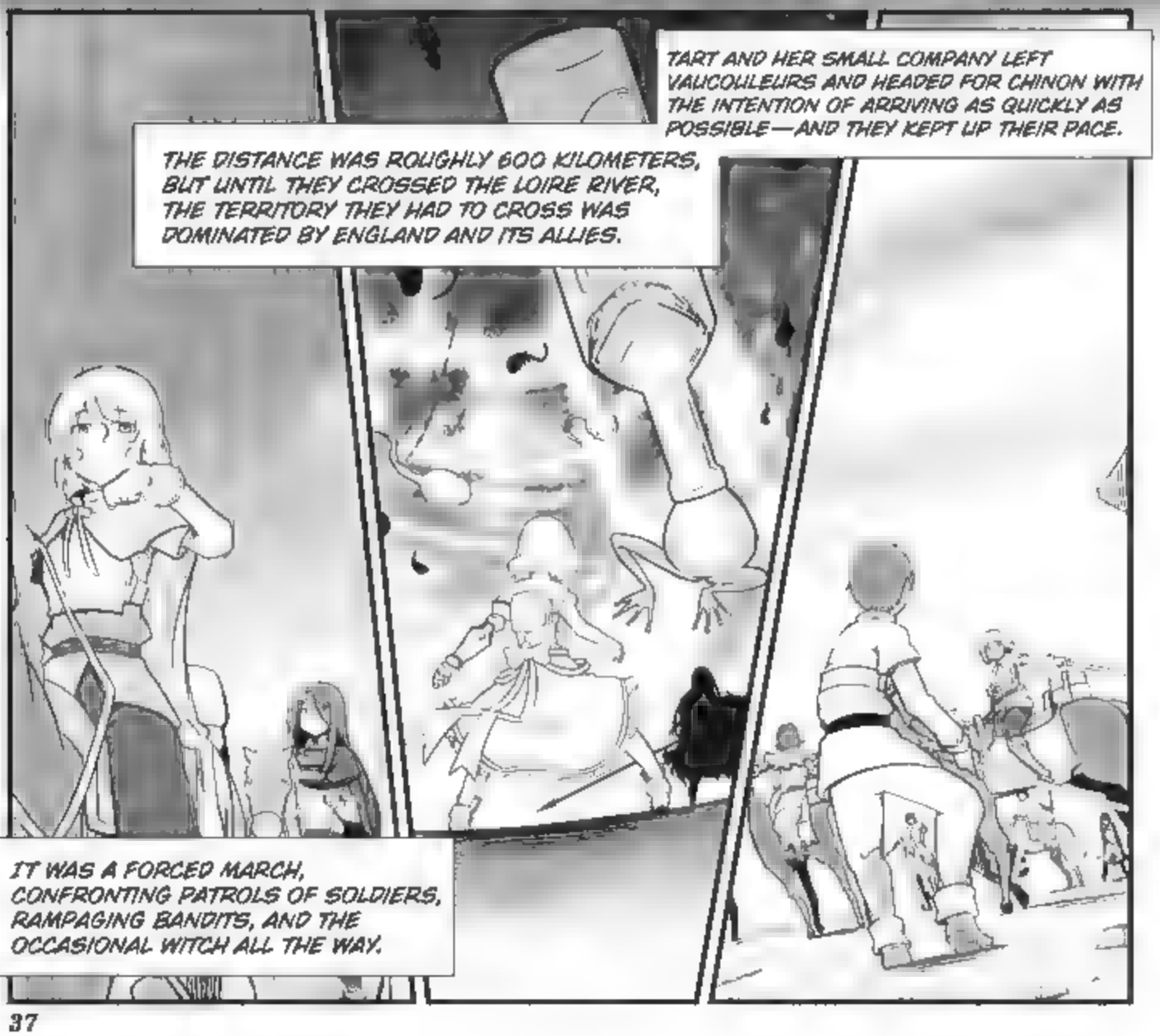
HE HAS BEEN KEEPING EXCLUSIVELY TO HIS CHAMBERS.
...I FEEL FOR HIM.
I SEE... WHICH MEANS AN AUDIENCE WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION, HM?
HMM...
THEN ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY THIS LA PUCELLE WOMAN DOES SOMETHING TO RAISE HIS MAJESTY'S SPIRITS.
AND I WILL HOLD MY OWN TONGUE UNTIL THEN.
SU (SHFF)
KATSU
KATSUN (TAK)
...THAT THIS MIGHT MAKE THINGS A BIT MORE INTERESTING.
WELL, IT SEEMS...

LA PUCELLE, HMM?

WHOA!!
DOSUN (SHOONK)
SHIKU
SHIKU (SOB)
Chapter 6
GO
GO (RMBL)
SIR JEAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ZA (ZSH)

PTOO!
THAT BIG, UGLY ...
ヒュン
HYU (WHOOSH)
STAY BACK!
ONLY WE CAN HOPE TO DEFEAT WITCHES!
SU (SSK) スッ
HMPH!
TAN (TMP) タンッ
IF ANY ENEMY TRIES TO STAND AGAINST HER...

SUCK
SLASH
...THEN I...
...WILL EXTER-MINATE IT!!


TART AND HER SMALL COMPANY LEFT VAUCOULEURS AND HEADED FOR CHINON WITH THE INTENTION OF ARRIVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE—AND THEY KEPT UP THEIR PACE.
THE DISTANCE WAS ROUGHLY 600 KILOMETERS, BUT UNTIL THEY CROSSED THE LOIRE RIVER, THE TERRITORY THEY HAD TO CROSS WAS DOMINATED BY ENGLAND AND ITS ALLIES.
IT WAS A FORCED MARCH, CONFRONTING PATROLS OF SOLDIERS, RAMPAGING BANDITS, AND THE OCCASIONAL WITCH ALL THE WAY.

PACHI (CRACK)
PACHI
I THOUGHT I'D HELP YOU KEEP WATCH.
JEAN...
PACHI
BE-SIDES...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
?
OH, COME ON, BERTRAND! I CAN BE COUNTED ON WHEN THE TIME COMES.
PACHI
THOSE WORDS DON'T SOUND LIKE THE SAME SHALLOW GUY I KNOW FROM TOWN.

I'D LIKE TO BE A LITTLE HELP TO LA PUCELLE.
YOU KNOW...
I'M KIND OF USELESS WHEN IT COMES TO THE ROUGH STUFF.
HUH? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR THAT LITTLE GIRL?
WAIT!! DON'T GET ME WRONG!!
I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED SUCH A...
WAH!!
WELL, YOU SAW HER SPLIT THE FORTRESS AT VAUCOULEURS IN TWO...
...AND THEN WHEN SHE TOOK DOWN THAT MONSTER... THAT LITTLE GIRL IS TROUBLE!
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
YES, SHE DOES POSSESS SOME INCREDIBLE POWER ...
YOU SAW HER, BERTRAND, DIDN'T YOU?

GIGHN
(KACHING)
ITS SHELL IS STRONG!!
GYURU
(WHIRL)

TO (TMP)
DON (WHUD)
RIZ! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
YES... IT'S JUST VERY TOUGH.
CHA (CHKK)
OF COURSE IT IS! IT'S A CRAB AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
• • •

HUH?
RIZ, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A CRAB IS?
IT'S GOT THIS ARMORED SHELL AND CLAMPS FOR HANDS AND GOES LIKE THIS...
PINCHY!
PINCHY!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS!
YES, IT DOES HAVE A TOUGH SHELL, BUT IT IS DANGEROUS TO JUDGE WITCHES SIMPLY BY LOOKS ALONE.
OH... OKAY!
H-HELP ME!!
OH NO!
HEY, WHY'S IT COMING AFTER ME!?
DOSU (STOMP)
DOSU
TART!
DA (DASH)
NUU (LOOM)
I'M DONE FOR!!
NOOOOOO!!

WAH!
WAH!
WAH!
GORO
GORO (ROLL)
WHOA!
DON (SHOVE)
THAT HURT... WHAT JUST...?
GUGU (STRAIN)
AAAH!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR JEAN ...?
GI
GISHI (KRAK)
AH... AHH...
WATCH OUT!!
TART !!
DA (DASH)
BUUN WHOOSH
KA (KRAK)
DOSHU (SLASH)
DON (THUD)

I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE!
DON (THUD)
AAAAAAH!
CHA (CHIK)
RIZ, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
THIS IS NOTHING!
GUGU (STRAIN)

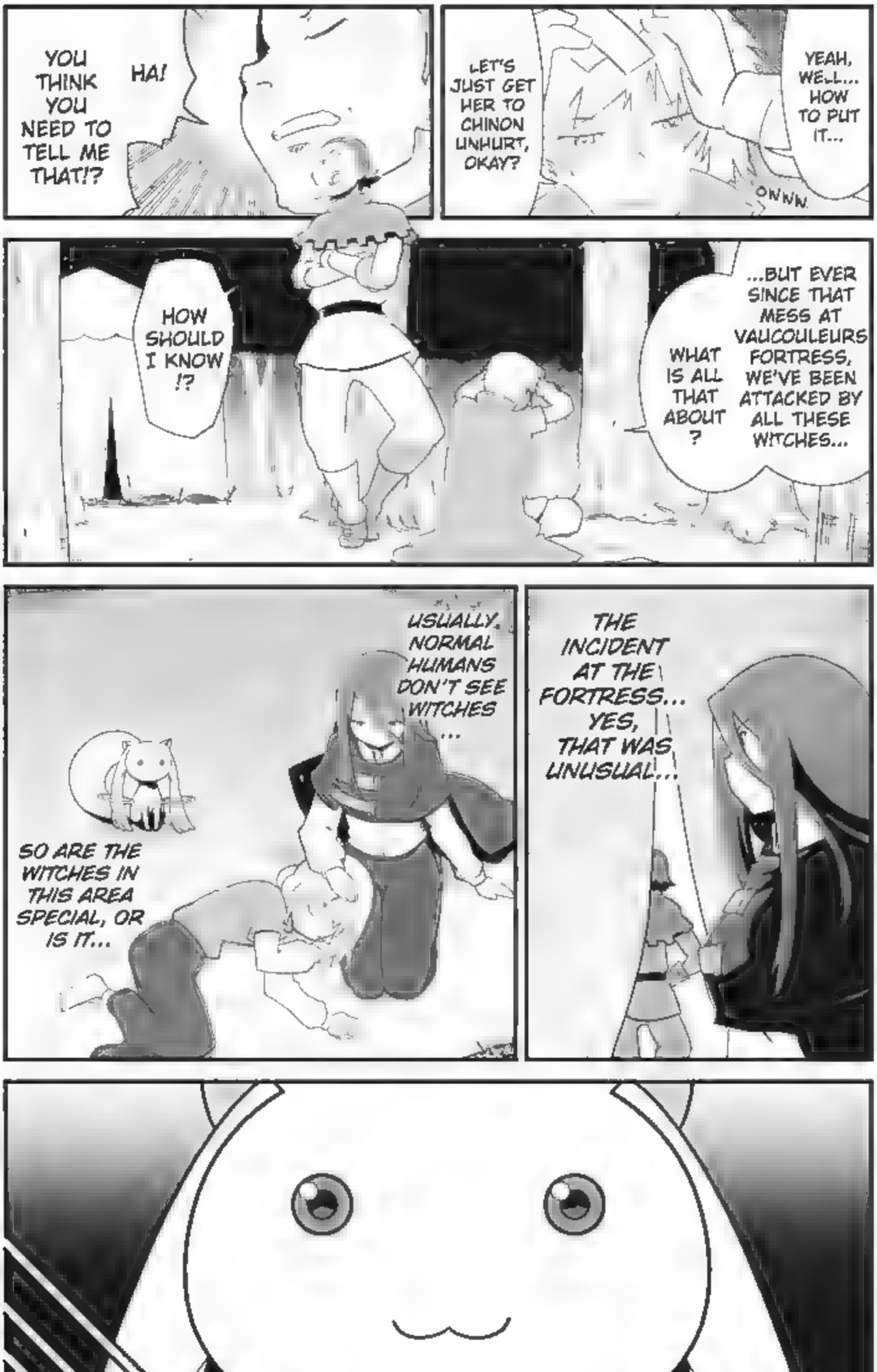
HYAAH!!
GO (KRUNCH)
BUUN (WHMM)
AAAAAH!
GUN - (WHIRL)
DAN (LEAP)

AAA
THIS WILL...
AH
DO (THOOM)
AH

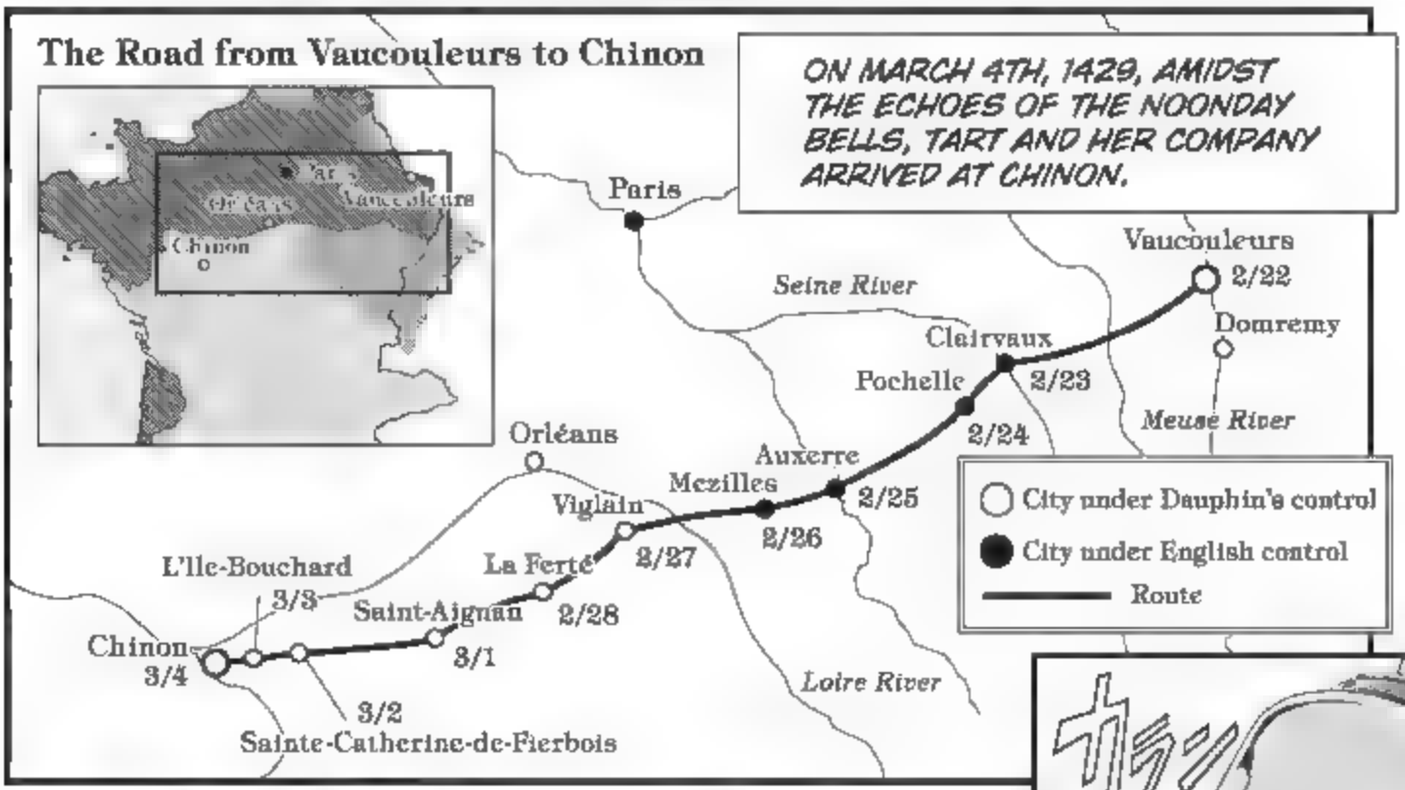
BO (FWOOM)
TART, HOW'S YOUR SOUL GEM!?
KOOOO (WHOOO)
TO (TMP)
I TRIED TO HOLD BACK MY POWER AS MUCH AS I COULD THIS TIME...
IT STILL DOESN'T LOOK GOOD... EVEN HOLDING BACK, IT STILL HAS A LOT OF IMPURITIES.
YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO INVOLVED IN A FIGHT UNTIL YOU'VE LEARNED TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS A BIT BETTER. IF YOUR SOUL GEM GETS TOO MANY IMPURITIES, WE'LL ALL REGRET IT.
SHUUUU (FZSHH)
BUT I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH...

HUH? NO... IT'S JUST...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JEAN?
HM?
CRIS-SAKES... WELL, I GUESS THE BATTLE'S OVER.
UM... I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
FORGIVE ME. IT WAS ALL MY FAULT...
NO! WE'RE JUST FINE, THANKS TO YOU!
YOU AREN'T HURT, ARE YOU?
SIR BER-TRAND, SIR JEAN!
TAI (TMP?)
SO IT'S NOTH NG LIKE THAT...
PACHI (KRAK!)
HER POWER IS AMAZ-ING.
AND I'M SO GLAD YOU ARE TOO!!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW, BUT NORMALLY SHE'S JUST A SWEET, SIMPLE GIRL...
SO IT ISN'T LIKE A CRUSH OR ANY-THING...
HM... MAYBE THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF.
ALL I'M DOING IS CARRYING OUT SIR BAUDRI-COURT'S ORDERS AS BEST I CAN.
HUH? THAT DOESN'T FIT, BER-TRAND.
AS I RECALL, SOMEONE NAMED BER-TRAND WENT ALL THE WAY TO DOMREMY WHILE SHE WAS IN VAUCOU-LEURS TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO HER FAMILY SO THEY WOULDN'T WORRY
WHA ...!?
SEEMS TO BE GOING BEYOND "FOL-LOWING ORDERS," DOESN'T IT?
HEH HEH.
WAIT! YOU AREN'T BLUSHING, ARE YOU?
THAT ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
J-JEAN!! YOU LITTLE...
GATA (THUMP)
WHOA! I'M IN TROUBLE NOW!!

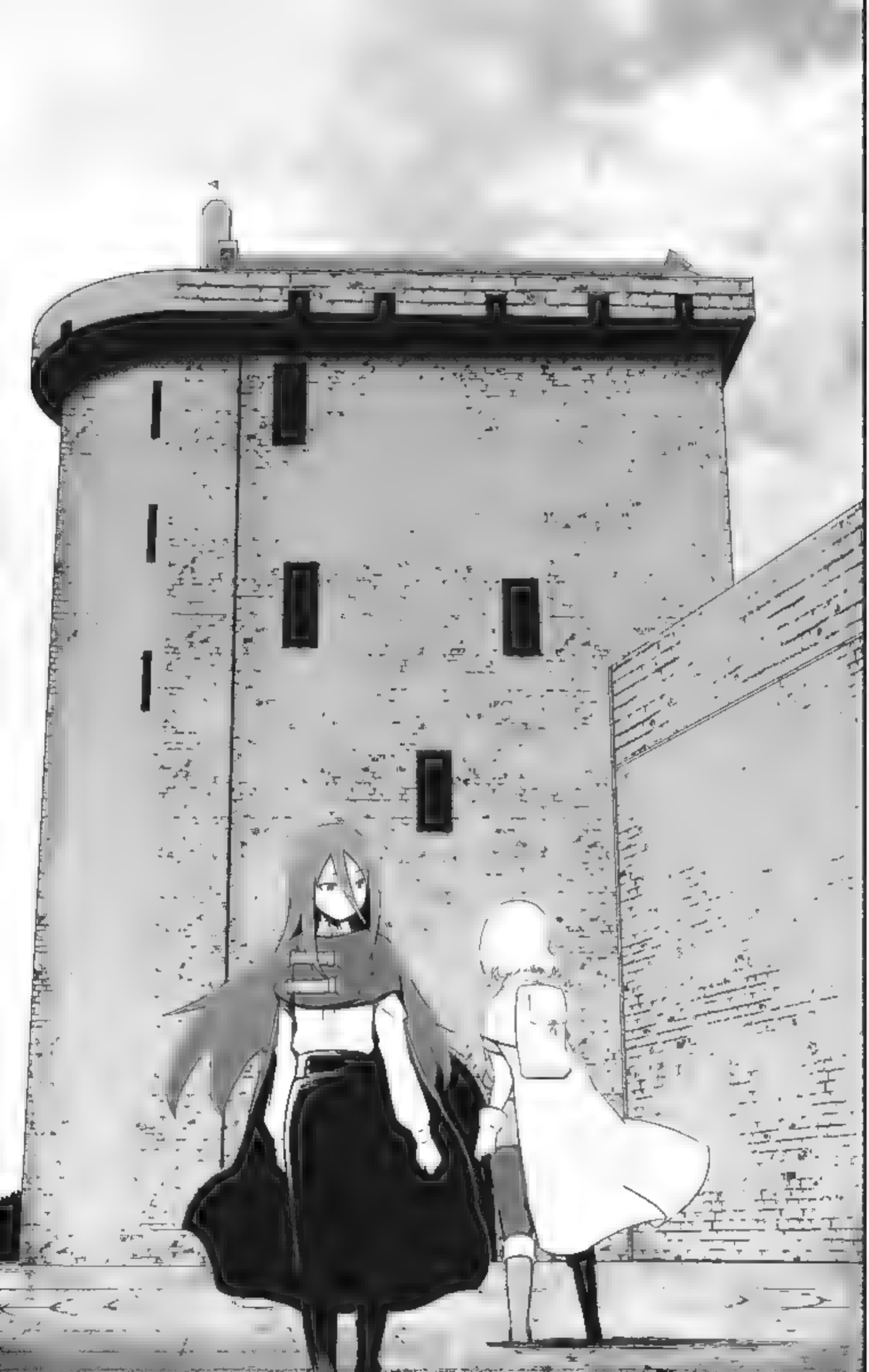

YOU THINK YOU NEED TO TELL ME THAT!?
HA!
LET'S JUST GET HER TO CHINON UNHURT, OKAY?
YEAH, WELL... HOW TO PUT IT...
ONNN
HOW SHOULD I KNOW !?
WHAT IS ALL THAT ABOUT ?
...BUT EVER SINCE THAT MESS AT VAUCOULEURS FORTRESS, WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY ALL THESE WITCHES...
USUALLY, NORMAL HUMANS DON'T SEE WITCHES ...
SO ARE THE WITCHES IN THIS AREA SPECIAL, OR IS IT...
THE INCIDENT AT THE FORTRESS... YES, THAT WAS UNUSUAL...

*TAKEN FROM LA CHEVAUCHÉE DE JEHANNE LA PUCELLE DE VAUCOULEURS À CHINON BY MAURICE VACHON (CARMINE-EDICULTURE)



WE'RE THE BODY-GUARDS, BUT YOU WERE THE ONE PROTECTING US FROM THE THOSE MON-STERS...
NO, IT SHOULD BE US THANK-ING YOU!
THAT TAKES CARE OF OUR DUTY TO YOU.
YES! THANK YOU SO MUCH, SIR BER-TRAND!
HONESTLY! YOU JUST TREAT PEOPLE LIKE SLAVES!
NOW ...
TAP (THUD)
...I THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT THE MOMENT WE GOT HERE, WE'D JUST PART WAYS, BUT...
SINCE OUR JOB WAS SIMPLY TO GET YOU HERE SAFELY...
THANK YOU!! I'LL DO MY BEST!!
...I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN ACCOM-PLISH WHAT YOU'VE COME HERE TO DO!
LA PUCELLE ...
SU (SSH)

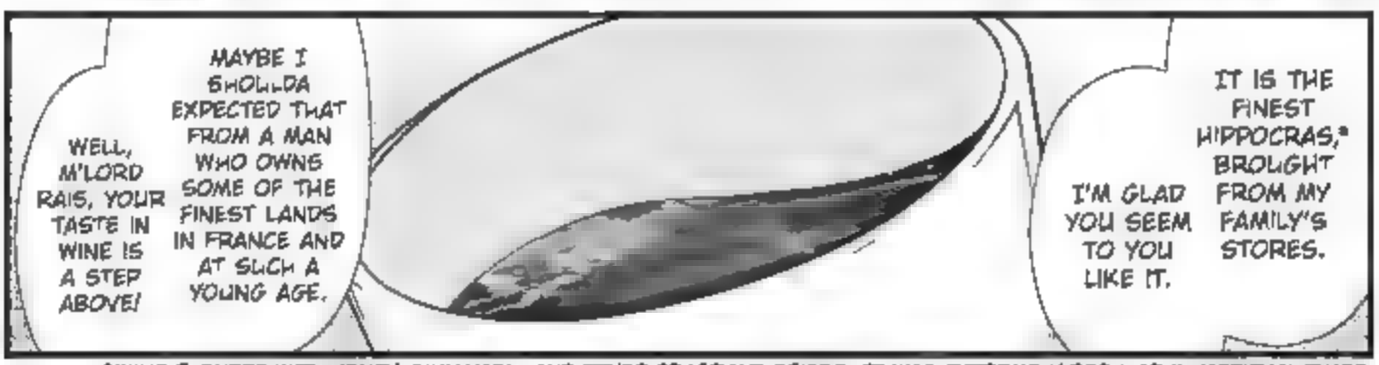
I'M BACK. THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE, SO FIRST WE SHOULD FIND THE INN AND...
AH!! WHAT ARE YOU TWO HOLDING HANDS FOR!?
...IN ANY CASE, WE'LL BE MAKING OUR WAY BACK TO VAUCOULEURS.
I IMAGINE THINGS WILL GET DIFFICULT FOR YOU..
...BUT I WILL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR SUCCESS.
I WANT TO HOLD HER... OW!!
GAN GBONK
NOW, TART, FIRST THE INN ..
LET'S PREPARE OURSELVES FOR AN AUDIENCE.
OKAY.



PALACE OF CHINON
THRONE ROOM
YOU DRINK TOO MUCH, FATHER!
YOU MAY HAVE MANAGED TO COME BACK IN ONE PIECE, BUT IF YOU DESTROY YOUR HEALTH NOW, YOU'LL STILL HAVE LOST EVERY-THING.
GOKU (GULP)
ゴク
GOKU
ゴクゥ
HON-ESTLY!
AHH...
MELISSA, GET ME ANOTH-ER!

VERY WELL. HOW ABOUT THIS?
AND NOW THAT'S DONE, I DON'T MIND TRYIN' A FEW OTHER DRINKS...
GUBI!! (SLURRP) ごびー

HERE! YOU DRINK LP TOO! THE PA-ACE'S WINES ARE GOOD!
DON'T NAG! HERE I JUST GET BACK TO THE PALACE FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD...
WOW! THAT'S DELI-CIOUS!
WHAT'D I TE-- YOU?
JUST A BIT, THEN...
ちび
CHIB. (SIP)


WELL, M'LORD RAIS, YOUR TASTE IN WINE IS A STEP ABOVE!
MAYBE I SHOULDA EXPECTED THAT FROM A MAN WHO OWNS SOME OF THE FINEST LANDS IN FRANCE AND AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
I'M GLAD YOU SEEM TO YOU LIKE IT.
IT IS THE FINEST HIPPOCRAS,* BROUGHT FROM MY FAMILY'S STORES.

*WINE BLENDED WITH HONEY, CINNAMON, AND OTHER FRAGRANT SPICES. IT WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR IN MEDIEVAL TIMES.

BUT EVEN SO, I AM EVEN MORE PUT OFF BY UGLY MEN.
LITTLE GIRLS LIKE HER HOLD NO INTEREST FOR ME.
HA HA... NEVER FEAR.
WATCH OUT! I DON'T CARE HOW NOBLE Y'ARE, LAY A FINGER ON MY DAUGHTER, AND YOU'LL GET YER LUMPS!
ZAWA
HM
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!!
ZAWA
ZAWA
YOU WILL NOW BE AD-DRESSED BY THE GRAND CHAMBER-LAIN OF FRANCE!

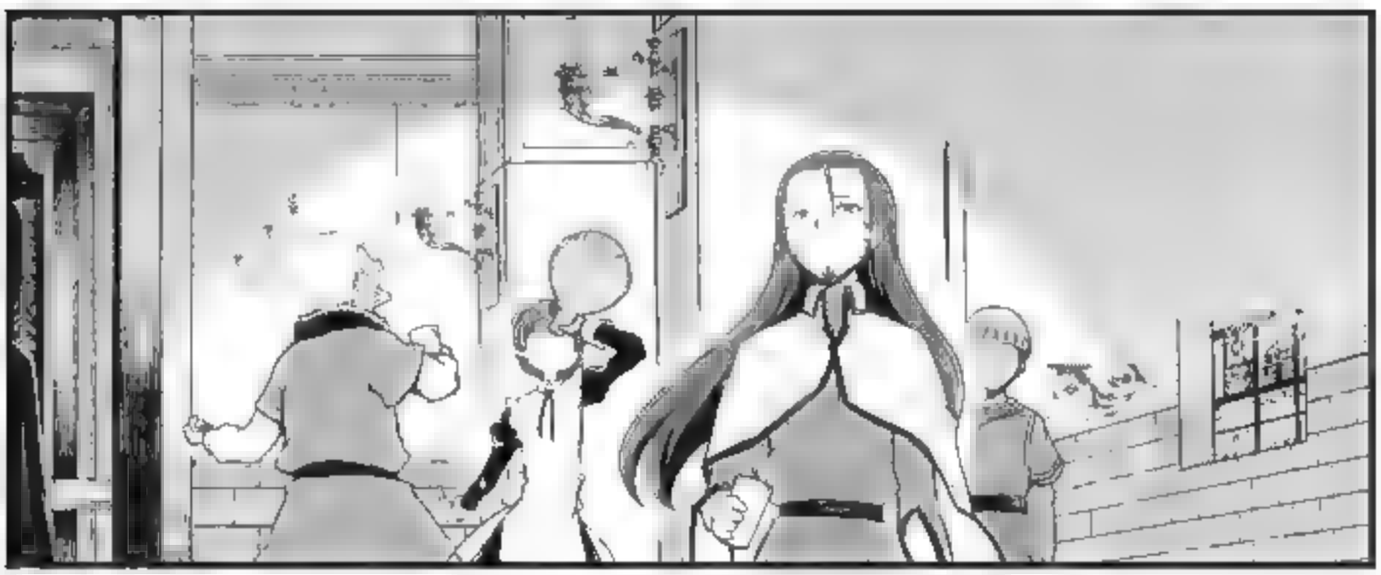
THANK YOU, LORDS AND LADIES, FOR COMING ...
I THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING DESPITE THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THIS GATHERING.
SU (SSK)
VERY SOON, A LOWBORN GIRL WHO GOES BY THE NAME LA PUCELLE WILL BE CALLING UPON THE PALACE.
DAMN LA TRÉMOILLE... HE'S TALKING LIKE THE DAUPHIN HAS LOST ALL FAITH IN RENÉ SINCE RENÉ PETITIONED FOR THIS AUDIENCE WITH LA PUCELLE...
CHARLES' MOTHER-IN-LAW YOLANDE D'ARAGON
CHARLES' BROTHER-IN-LAW RENÉ D'ANJOU
LA PUCELLE? IS SHE THE ONE RUMORED TO HAVE SAVED VAUCOULEURS? I WONDER WHAT SHE'S LIKE?

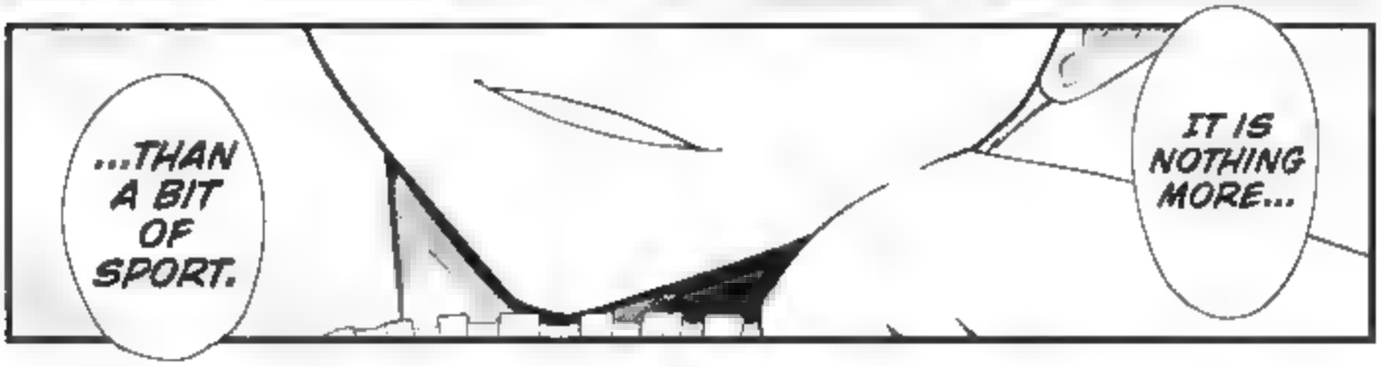
IF YOU WILL PLEASE BE SILENT...
HAAH...
NOW, HIS MAJESTY HAS SOME WORDS FOR THE COURT.
HE ALWAYS HAS SOME SCHEME ...
DAUPHIN OF THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE
CHARLES DE VALOIS
...AS WE BELIEVE YOU ALL HAVE HEARD...
AND THUS SHE HAS COME IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DAY.
THIS "LA PUCELLE" HAS COME FROM VAUCOULEURS AND ASKS FOR A SHORT AUDIENCE WITH US.

THIS SO-CALLED LA PU-CELLE...
THIS SO-CALLED ANGEL!
SUCH A ONE...
...HAS COME TO MEET A MAN RIDICULED AND REVILED AS THE SO-CALLED KING OF BOURGES.
HEH.
THE RUMORS INTEREST US...
...BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS GIRL IS ACTUALLY A MESSENGER FROM GOD. WOULDN'T YOU?
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)

OH, DO BE CALM, LA TRÉ-MOILLE.
YOUR MAJ-ESTY, WHAT ARE YOU ...!?
SO WE WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU...
...TO JOIN US IN A BIT OF FUN.

(STARE.




...THAN A BIT OF SPORT.
IT IS NOTHING MORE...

KATSU
KATSU (TAK)

LA PUCELLE HAS ARRIVED!
VERY WELL... ALLOW HER TO ENTER.

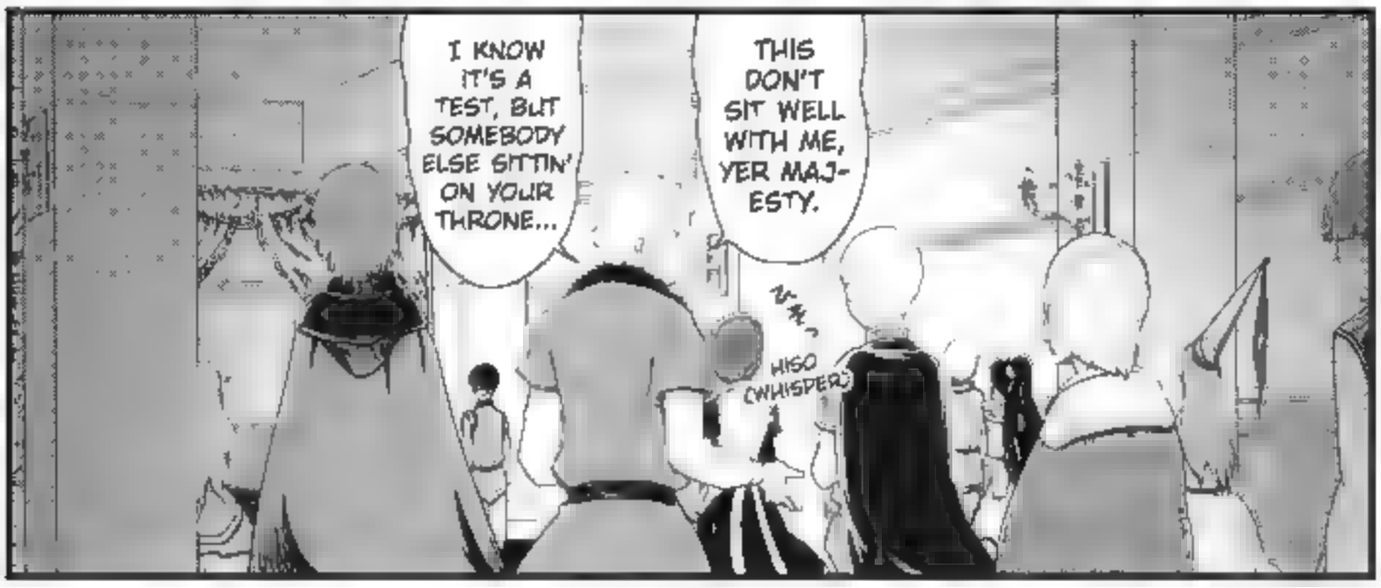
GIII
(CREAK)
ZA
(CRSH)

ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)

ALSO... WHAT IS THAT...?
HM? THIS LA PUCELLE SEEMS NO OLDER THAN I AM.
AND MUCH SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT SHE'D BE...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
BIKU (FLINCH)

ARE YOU THE GIRL THEY CALL LA PUCELLE?

I WELCOME YOU TO THE PALACE OF CHINON.


I KNOW IT'S A TEST, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE SITTIN' ON YOUR THRONE...
THIS DON'T SIT WELL WITH ME, YER MAJESTY.
HISO (WHISPER)

WHY SO QUIET, LA PUCELLE? HAVE YOU NOT COME ALL THE WAY FROM VAUCOULEURS TO SEE ME?
.....

NONE OF THAT FROM YOU, LA HIRE.
SIGH...
...FOR PITY'S SAKE...
IF SHE REALLY IS SENT BY GOD...
...THEN SHE SHOULDN'T BE FOOLED BY ANY IMPOSTER. SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK US OUT, SHOULD SHE NOT?
HA HA.

TART, THIS MAN...
YES, MONSIEUR ANGEL, I COULD TELL SOMEHOW.
YOUNG LADY! WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK?
ARE YOU HERE TO PASS ON A MESSAGE TO THE DAUPHIN OR NOT?
THIS GENTLEMAN...
ZAHA (MURMURS)
...IS NOT THE DAUPHIN!

NO...
I'M AFRAID NOT.
KOKU (NOD)
WHAT RUDENESS IS THIS? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I AM CHARLES DE VALOIS, THE TRUE KING OF FRANCE!
THAT YOU AREN'T THE DAUPHIN.
MY ANGEL SAID IT TOO.
...BUT I MUST SPEAK TO THE DAUPHIN IMMEDIATELY. THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE!
I'M SURE YOU ARE EXTREMELY HIGH-BORN...
GATA (CLATTER)

ZURU (SLUMP)
AHH...
TO (TLIP)
SU (SSK)
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
KOKU (NOD)
TA (TMP)

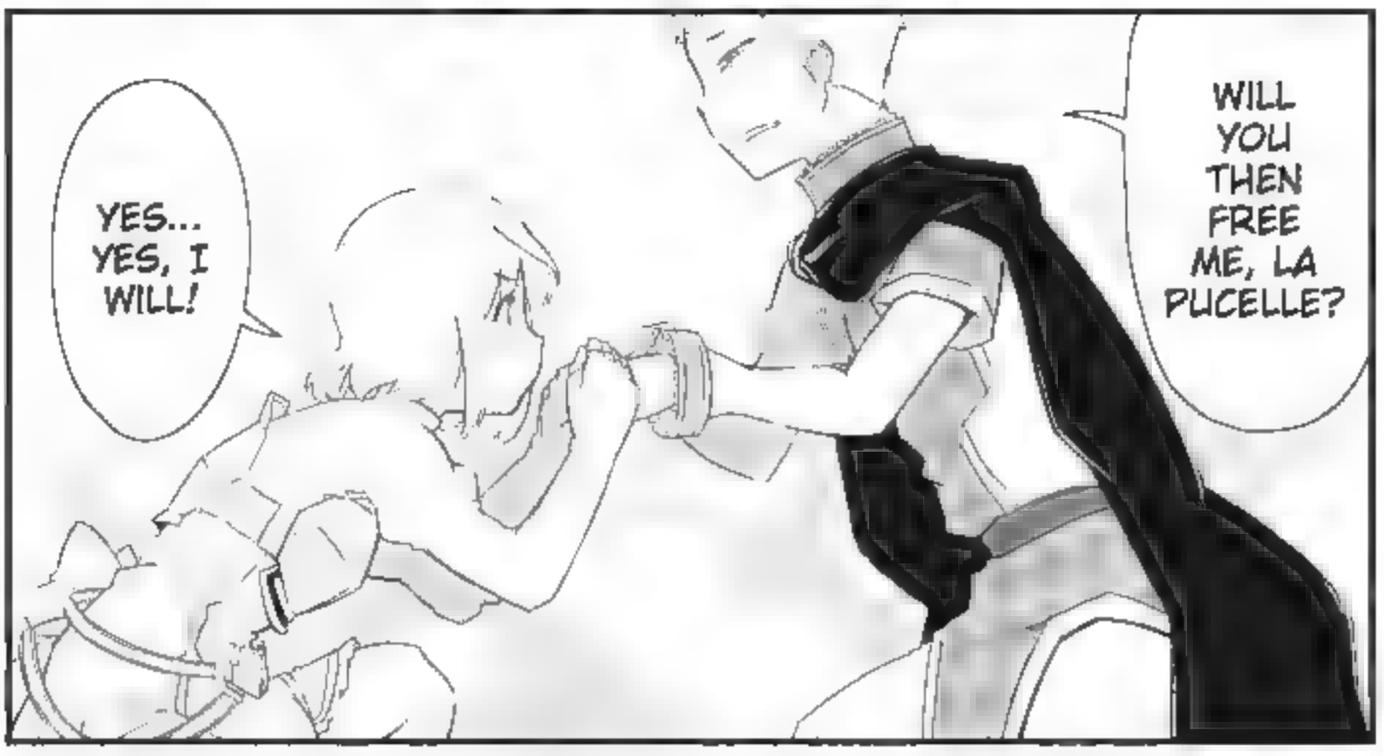
YOUR MAJ-ESTY!
WE FINALLY MEET!
I HAVE BEEN DIS-PATCHED HERE TO SEE YOU CROWNED THE KING OF ALL FRANCE.
THE ANGEL TELLS ME THAT YOU WILL BE ANOINTED AND CROWNED IN REIMS.
AND YOU ARE THE LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE ROYAL THRONE OF THE KING-DOM OF FRANCE.
WH... WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I AM CALLED JEANNE LA PU-CELLE.
O GENTLE DAUPHIN OF FRANCE ...
...IN PRI-VATE!
WE WILL SPEAK WITH THIS GIRL ...
WHA ...!?
SIRE!
LA TRÉ-MOILLE!

COME.
Y-YES, SIR!
YES... AS YOUR MAJ-ESTY WISH-ES...
DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE A COMMAND, TRÉMOILLE? NO ONE ELSE IS TO ENTER THE ROOM!
SIRE... THE DAN-GER...
THANK YOU, RIZ, BUT I'LL BE FINE.
TART! I'LL BE HERE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS ...
PERHAPS I COULD... BE IN-TERESTED IN LITTLE GIRLS...
OH- HO...
BATAN (SHUT)
ZAWA ~(MURMUR)
ZAWA

ARE YOU REALLY A MESSENGER FROM GOD?
I WAS GIVEN POWER BY THE ANGEL IN ORDER TO BE THE ONE WHO BRINGS LIGHT TO FRANCE.
WHEN YOU SAY "POWER" ...
KIIIN (GLEAM)
AND THE ANGEL HAS GIVEN ME POWER.
YES...FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, I HAVE HEARD THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL OF GOD.
MON DIEU!!
...TO USE THIS POWER IN THE SERVICE OF YOU, GENTLE DAUPHIN!
AND I HAVE BEEN TOLD...
YES! THIS POWER IS MEANT FOR YOU, GENTLE DAUPHIN, AND TO BRING PEACE TO THE KING-DOM OF FRANCE.
PAAAA (SHIIINE)
...LA PUCELLE, YOU SAY YOU WILL USE THIS POWER FOR ME?

EH!?
...I HAVE SEEN OTHERS WITH THAT POWER!
THAT'S WONDER-FUL...
THEY WERE TERRIBLE BEINGS WHO DROVE ME FROM PARIS!
GU (CLENCH)
KA (FLASH)
THEY ARE A SIGHT I WILL NEVER FORGET ...
ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
THEIR POWER WAS SO OVER-WHELMING, IT WAS AS IF I WERE IN A LIVING HELL...

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE BEEN FORCED TO STAY HOLED UP HERE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE...


WILL YOU THEN FREE ME, LA PUCELLE?
YES... YES, I WILL!

OH, IT'S HIS MAJESTY !!
(BAN (SLAM)

ONE AND ALL!!
HEAR ME!
THIS IS OUR SUBJECT, LA PUCELLE ...
...AND SHE IS TRULY A MES-SENGER FROM GOD!!

APRIL, 1429, BEFORE THE GATE OF THE PALACE OF CHINON...
GAYA
GAYA (CHATTER)
Chapter 7
AFTER WE WERE BEATEN BACK IN OUR ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE SIEGE OF ORLÉANS...IT SEEMED THAT WE HAD NO POSSIBLE CHANCE OF WINNING.
WELL, THAT IS ONLY NATURAL.
WE HAVE HER ON OUR SIDE!
BUT ALL THAT HAS CHANGED!
A MONTH AGO, A BLACK MOOD WAS SPREADING THROUGH THE DAUPHIN'S SUPPORTERS LIKE WILDFIRE—BUT THAT'S VANISHED AS IF IT NEVER EXISTED! EVEN AMONG THE MERCENARIES!
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS ALIVE IN A WHILE!
GAYA
GAYA MURMUR

AFTER HER AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN, TART ENDURED MANY TESTS CONDUCTED BY THEOLOGIANS AND CHURCH OFFICIALS IN THE TOWN OF POITIERS SOUTH OF CHINON.

IT TOOK THREE WEEKS, AND AFTERWARD, THE THEOLOGIANS RELEASED A STATEMENT SUMMARIZING THEIR RESULTS.

"WE COULD FIND NO EVIL WITHIN THE HEART OF THIS GIRL WHO IS CALLED LA PUCELLE.

"ON THE CONTRARY, WE FOUND HUMILITY, VIRGINITY, DEVOTION, HONESTY, AND SIMPLICITY. WE FOUND ONLY GOOD IN THIS GIRL."

U-
UM...
CONCURRING WITH THE DAUPHIN, THE THEOLOGIANS CONFIRMED LA PUCELLE WAS A TRUE MESSENGER FROM GOD.
WITH THIS DECLARATION, TART'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, AND MORE SOLDIERS CAME TO SERVE UNDER HER LEAD THAN THE DAUPHIN'S ARMY HAD BEEN ABLE TO RALLY BEFORE.
I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SERVE YOU HEREAFTER!
MY NAME IS MELISSA DE VIGNOLLES!
ZUI (ZSH)

WHA ...!?
BA (BOW)
MISTRESS JEANNE LA PUCELLE, MISTRESS RIZ, IT WILL BE MY HONOR!
BUT HOW COULD I NOT? I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE COUNTRY GIRL, AFTER ALL! YOU MUSTN'T CALL ME "MISTRESS"!
BA
"MIS-TRESS"!? NO, YOU MUSTN'T CALL ME THAT!!
A-AND IT'S MY HONOR TO...UM... SERVE YOU, MISTRESS MELISSA!!
BA
I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT! I AM THE SERVANT ...
I KNOW!
THEN YOU CAN JUST CALL ME TART!!
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH.
WE CAN'T DO THIS, NOT WHILE THE TROOPS ARE WATCHING.
SU (SHD)

AND YOU CAN SIMPLY CALL ME RIZ TOO.
...I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE A FRIEND THAN A SERVANT WITH ME! SO IF YOU'D CALL ME THAT...
AND SINCE YOU AND I SEEM SO CLOSE IN AGE, MISTRESS MELISSA...
TART?
HOW'S THAT SOUND?
IT'S THE NAME MY ANGEL GAVE ME!
ONLY MY FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED TO CALL ME THAT!
Y-YES! YES, I WILL!
TART! RIZ!
AND PLEASE, BOTH OF YOU CALL ME MELISSA!

LA PUCELLE!
ZA (ZSH)
YES! I'M SURE WE WILL, TART!
LET'S BECOME GREAT FRIENDS, MELISSA!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
MY GENTLE DAUPHIN!
SU (SHFF)
BA (BOW)
...YOU HAVE COMMAND OF THE TROOPS FROM HERE TO ORLÉANS.
GILLES DE RAIS, LA HIRE...
YES, SIRE!
I WILL!
I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO BREAK THE SIEGE OF ORLÉANS.
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME.

YOU'RE UP, LORD GILLES!
GIVE THEM A ROUSING SPEECH!
ポン
PON (PAT)
YES. VERY WELL...
SU (SSO)
すっ
YES, SIRE!
THEN AS COM-MANDER, GIVE THE ORDER TO DEPART!
...SOLDIERS OF FRANCE!!
KATSU
カッ!!
WE ARE...
KATSU (TAKK)
カッ!!

IT IS TRUE THAT AT THIS TIME...
...WE, THE ARMAGNAC FORCES WHO SUPPORT THE TRUE HEIR...
ZA (ZSH)
ZA
...FIND OUR-SELVES BACKED INTO A CORNER...
.....

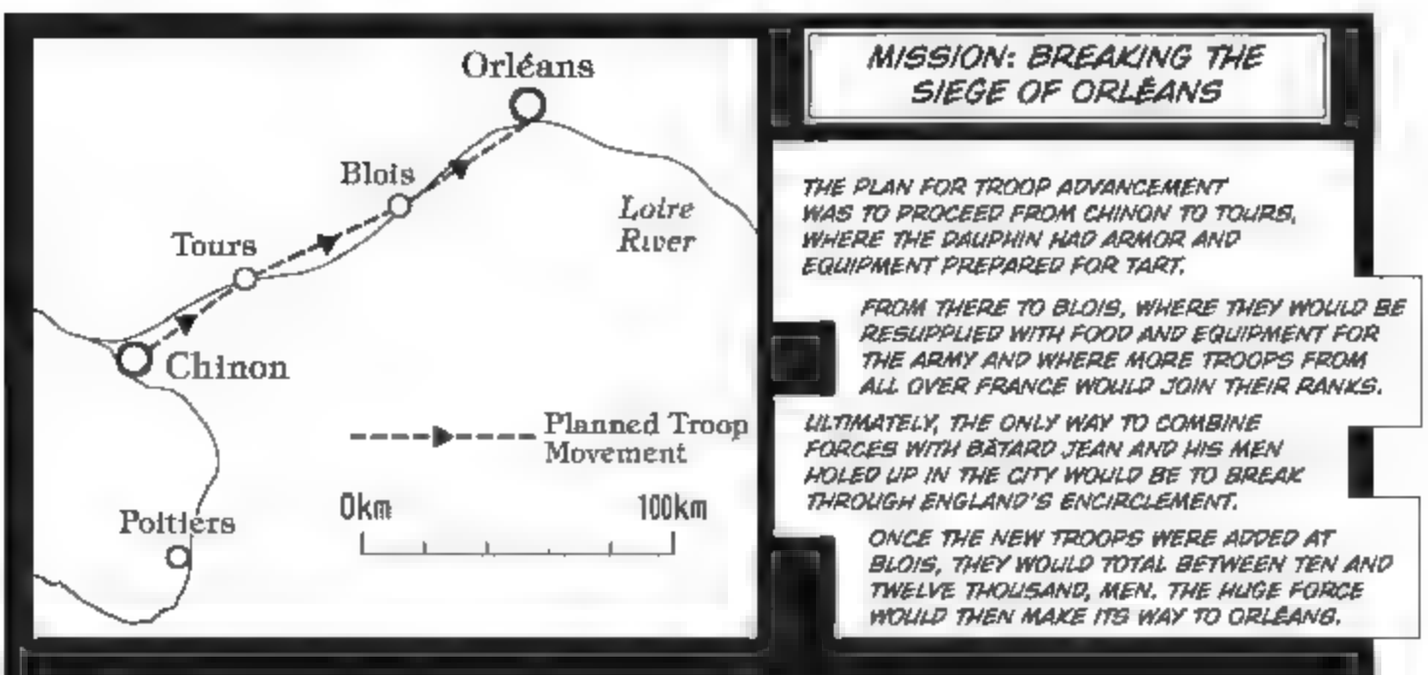
ENGLAND WILL BE ON THE VERGE OF USURPING THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE ...
...IF WE ALLOW ORLÉANS TO BE CAPTURED!
DO NOT BE DECEIVED!
THAT IS THE TRUTH OF WHERE WE STAND NOW...
GIRI (GRIT)

HOW-EVER!!

THE DAUPHIN CHARLES ...
...AND THE ONE HE HAS CONFIRMED AS THE MESSENGER OF GOD, LA PUCELLE...
...ARE SENDING US TO ORLÉANS THIS DAY!
SUE (SHK)
DO NOT FEAR, WARRIORS OF FRANCE!
WHERE WE GO, THE WILL OF HEAVEN GOES WITH US!
BI (ZWOOSH)
AAAAAAH!!

RAAH!
YEAH!
KYU (CLENCH)
RAAAAAAAH

...THAT MAN SURE LOVES PUTTIN' ON A SHOW.
BASA (FLAP)


Orléans
Blois
Tours
Chinon
Loire River
Planned Troop Movement
0km
100km
Poitiers
MISSION: BREAKING THE SIEGE OF ORLÉANS
THE PLAN FOR TROOP ADVANCEMENT WAS TO PROCEED FROM CHINON TO TOURS, WHERE THE DAUPHIN HAD ARMOR AND EQUIPMENT PREPARED FOR TART.
FROM THERE TO BLOIS, WHERE THEY WOULD BE RESUPPLIED WITH FOOD AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARMY AND WHERE MORE TROOPS FROM ALL OVER FRANCE WOULD JOIN THEIR RANKS.
ULTIMATELY, THE ONLY WAY TO COMBINE FORCES WITH BÂTARD JEAN AND HIS MEN HOLED UP IN THE CITY WOULD BE TO BREAK THROUGH ENGLAND'S ENCIRCLEMENT.
ONCE THE NEW TROOPS WERE ADDED AT BLOIS, THEY WOULD TOTAL BETWEEN TEN AND TWELVE THOUSAND, MEN. THE HUGE FORCE WOULD THEN MAKE ITS WAY TO ORLÉANS.

AND WITH THAT PLAN, THE MARCH TO FREE ORLÉANS WAS UNDERWAY.
ZA CRSH
ZA
UM...
WE'RE HEADING INTO A BATTLEFIELD. AREN'T YOU AFRAID, MELISSA?
ZA
ZA
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WITH MY FATHER EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, AND HE'S A MERCE-NARY.
I'VE BEEN TRAVELING ALL OVER FRANCE EVER SINCE.

*IN THAT ERA, IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND WOMEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD TREATING THE WOUNDED, DOING CHORES, OR PROVIDING OTHER SUPPORT AS NONCOMBATANTS. IT WAS ALSO NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE FEMALE RELATIVES OF SOLDIERS, SUCH AS WIVES OR SISTERS, TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FROM THE REAR OF THE FIELD.

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN IT WAS DANGEROUS...
...BUT I THINK IT'S WORTH IT IF I CAN BE EVEN A LITTLE HELP TO MY FATHER OR THE MEN HE COMMANDS.
HAAH...
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE WORKING WITH THE ARMY AT ALL.
YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND AND STAY IN CHINON, YOU KNOW!
FATHER ...

BUT THIS TIME, I CAN...
...BE OF SOME HELP TO LA PUCELLE... I MEAN, TART!
WHAT I SAW ON THE DAY OF HER AUDIENCE WAS TRULY A MIRACLE!
...AND THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED!

SO THIS TIME YOU'RE SERVING LA PUCELLE ...?
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WERE COMING TO LOOK AFTER ME...
OF COURSE I WILL, ASSUMING I HAVE THE TIME.
AW, GEEZ...
BUT THE BATTLE HERE WILL BE A LOT BIGGER THAN ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR.
I'M AN AFTER-THOUGHT, FER CRIS-SAKES!
NOW... LOOKS LIKE THE SUN'S GETTING READY TO SINK...
BETTER PREPARE YERSELF FOR IT!
...I WILL.

HEEEY!
WELL... PERHAPS.
HMM...
IF I RECALL, JUST A LITTLE FARTHER ON...
...THERE IS A SMALL VILLAGE. LET'S MAKE CAMP THERE FOR THE NIGHT.
MASTER GILLES, DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD BREAK FOR THE NIGHT?
SU (SSIO)
LA HIRE, TAKE LA PUCELLE AND HER GROUP TO SEE IF YOU CAN PROCURE A GOOD CAMP-SITE IN THE AREA.

RIGHT! THAT I WILL!
YOU AND I ARE GOING ON AHEAD. KEEP CLOSE BEHIND!
PAKARA (GALLOP)
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ

...NN!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

KOOOOO (CRACKLE)
IT'S IN RUINS...

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF PEOPLE...

I DON'T THINK EVEN AN ENGLISH ATTACK... COULD DO THIS.
THIS AREA IS STILL UNDER THE PROTECTION OF OUR FRENCH TROOPS.
IF THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTACK, THERE'D BE A REPORT, AND I WOULD HAVE HEARD OF IT...

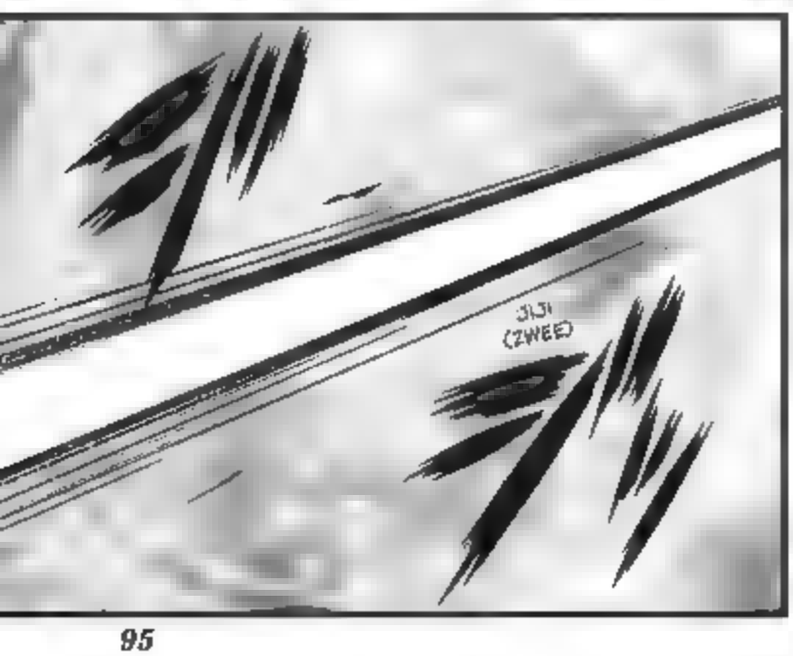
SO WHAT COULDA DONE IT!?
THAT REAC-TION...
KAAA (SHIIINE)
YES. LET'S GO.
H-HEY!!
WE'LL BE BACK VERY SOON!
DA
DA (DASH)
OH, COME ON! WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
AND YOU MUSTN'T FOLLOW US!
TA (TMP)

I DON'T SEE ANY ENEMIES AROUND, SO YOU WAIT HERE UNTIL THEY GET BACK!
GU (GRAB)
I GOTTA GET BACK QUICK AND REPORT THE SITUATION TO MASTER GILLES!
LET'S SEE
THEY SAY THEY'LL BE BACK...
POTSUN (ALONE)
I UNDERSTAND!
SORRY, BUT I GOTTA TRIPLE-TIME IT BACK!
BIKU (FLINCH)
EEEK!!
HELLO, MELISSA.

Y-YOU CAN TALK?
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
WH-WHO'S THERE!?
IT'S ME, CUBE.
I SAW YOU ONCE WHEN TART HAD HER AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN.
MAYBE YOU REMEMBER ME.
OH!!
YOU WERE SITTING ON TART'S SHOULDER BACK THEN...
EH...?
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM WHAT TART CALLS HER "ANGEL." I'M THE ONE WHO GRANTED HER THOSE POWERS.
COME WITH ME, MELISSA ...
...AND I'LL SHOW YOU ANOTHER MIRACLE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE PLACE, HM?

LET'S GO!
BI (VWIP)


JIJI (ZWEE)

SHUUUUUUN
(WHOOOOH)
OOOOO
(WHOOO)

RIZ! IT'S GOT SOME-BODY!!
WE HAVE TO RESCUE HER!

ZOSHU
(ZLASH)
BI
BI
(ZWAP)
HASHI
(GRAB)

GARA...RUMB...
GARA
DON
ZU
CRASH
WOW, RIZ! YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING ...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE WITCH.
TART, YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER HER.
ALL RIGHT!

BO
BO
BO
(BWOOM)
BA
(LUNGE)
KEEEAH!

GASHI (GRAB)
NUU (SHLOOP)
HYUN CYANKO
GO (WHAM)

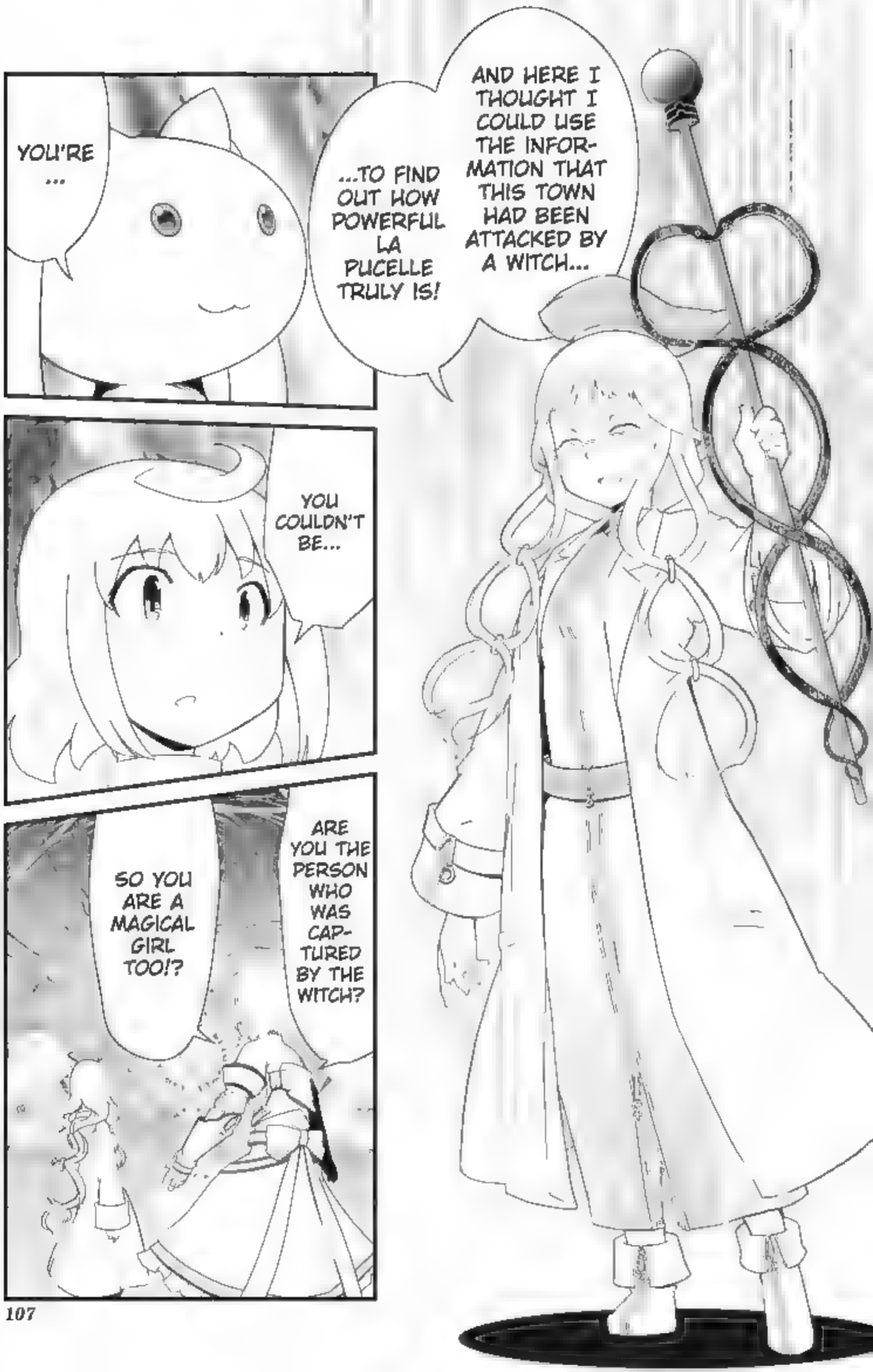
KYAEE
HAAH...
TAEEE
PIKU (TWITCH)
ピク
PIKU
ピク
TART?
BA CTURND
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ME-LISSA !?
I LED HER HERE.
MON-SIEUR ANGEL?
BUT WHY?

YOU MUST CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF WHAT YOU WISH YOUR FUTURE TO BE.
A MAGI-CAL... GIRL?
JUST LIKE YOU, ME-LISSA IS A GIRL WITH THE TALENT NECESSARY TO BECOME A MAGICAL GIRL.
THE BIRTH OF A NEW MAGICAL GIRL, FOR BOTH YOU TWO AND FOR FRANCE, WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HURT YOUR SITUATION.
BUT STILL... THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DETER-MINE IF SHE WILL BE A MAGICAL GIRL...
...IS MELISSA HER-SELF.
ZUDO (SHOONK)

ISN'T THAT... MELIS-SA?
HOW COULD SHE GET INSIDE THIS SPACE?
BOTO (PLOP)
BOTO
PIKI (KRIK)
PISHI (KRAK)
FROM UNDER THE GROUND!?
COULD THIS BE THE TRUE FORM OF THE WITCH!?
HYUU (WHOOSH)
DOBA (WHOOM)
GA (DSH)
GA
GA
GA
TO (TMP)

DODGE IT!!
DO (THUD)
TART!
IT'S GOING AFTER THEM!
GAGOO (CRUNCH)
BUWAAAA (WHOOOSH)
TART! MELIS-SA!?

YOU'RE BEING NAUGHTY, CUBE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO BRING IN...
...OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WHEN A MAGICAL GIRL IS IN A FIGHT.
BACHI
BACHI (CRACKL)


AND HERE I THOUGHT I COULD USE THE INFORMATION THAT THIS TOWN HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY A WITCH...
...TO FIND OUT HOW POWERFUL LA PUCELLE TRULY IS!
YOU'RE ...
YOU COULDN'T BE...
ARE YOU THE PERSON WHO WAS CAPTURED BY THE WITCH?
SO YOU ARE A MAGICAL GIRL TOO!?

ZU OFZSHO
CHA CCHIKO
WHO ARE YOU? WERE YOU USING A WITCH?
WHAT BECAME OF THE VILLAGERS?
OH, DO PUT THAT WEAPON DOWN...
...GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE WHITE MERCE-NARY.
WHA ...!?
HOW...
...DID YOU KNOW...?
I AM ONE WHO SHARES YOUR OBJEC-TIVES.
...BUT THEY HAVE BEEN EVACU-ATED TO A SAFE PLACE.
CER-TAINLY THE VIL-LAGERS WERE IN DANGER OF FALLING UNDER THE WITCH'S INFLU-ENCE...
DON'T WOR-RY.

NOW, TAKE THIS.
...WE SHARE THE SAME ENEMY.
ALSO ...
BO (WHOOM)
GU (SHK)
...A SWORD?
GIVE IT A SWING, AND ADD A BIT OF MAGIC TO IT.
BLUWA (WOOSH)
BLUAAA (OOOM)

KA (KSHOOM)
...AND I CAN SENSE I'M USING LESS MAGIC THAN I USUALLY NEED TO...
I ONLY GAVE IT A LIGHT SWING...
DISHI
PISHI (SHATTER)
AMAZ-ING...
WHAT IS IT?
SUUUU (FSHHH)
I THOUGHT PERHAPS I COULD INTERVENE ON YOUR BEHALF.
SOMEONE WITH YOUR AMOUNT OF POWER TENDS TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CON-TROL.
THIS IS THE EPÉE DE CLO-VIS.
THIS ORIGINALLY LAY WITHIN THE CHURCH OF SAINT CATHERINE. ITS METALLURGY HAS BEEN BLENDED WITH MAGIC.
Epée de Clovis

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY SISTER'S NAME?
YES... AH, YOUR YOUNGER SISTER WAS NAMED CATHERINE AS WELL, WAS SHE NOT?
CATHER-INE...?
NIKO (SMILE)
ニコッ
...THAT THE ENTIRE NATION IS FOCUSING UPON YOU WITH GREAT INTEREST.
YOU OUGHT TO REALIZE BY NOW...

YES, I DID.
CUBE, YOU CHOSE THIS CHILD, DID YOU NOT?
SHE CAN TURN THIS COUNTRY UPSIDE DOWN.
TART IS THE SINGLE MOST VITAL PERSON ...
.....
THIS SWORD FOUND IN A PLACE CLOSELY TIED TO YOUR FATE, AND SINCE YOU ARE STILL UNPRACTICED IN THE ARTS OF A MAGICAL GIRL, IT SHOULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT.
YOUR SISTER WAS NAMED AFTER SAINT CATHER-INE.*

*ONE OF THE FOURTEEN HOLY HELPER SAINTS OF THE CATHOLICS. THERE ARE CHURCHES DEDICATED TO ST. CATHERINE ALL OVER EUROPE.

I SEE...
SU (SHP)
LA PUCELLE... YOU ARE NOW HEADED TO ORLÉANS.
AND...
...TO THOSE WAITING TO STAND AGAINST YOU THERE...
SUU (SHU)
IT IS YOUR FATE TO DRIVE THEM OFF.
BUT THAT PARTICULAR PATH IS VERY DANGEROUS INDEED...
FU (VANISH)
I PRAY IT IS NOT TOO PAINFUL A ROAD FOR YOU...
SHE... VAN-ISHED?

MON-SIEUR ANGEL, WHO WAS THAT?
SHE IS A MAGICAL GIRL, JUST AS YOU TWO ARE.
AND SINCE SHE SEEMS TO BE WORKING ON THE SIDE OF FRANCE...
...HER GOALS APPEAR TO MATCH UP WITH YOURS.
I IMAGINE THAT YOU AND SHE WILL MEET AGAIN SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
SINCE WE'VE BEATEN THE WITCH, OUR NEXT MOVE IS TO REJOIN THE ARMY.
AND MELISSA DESERVES AN EXPLANA-TION AS WELL.
EH!?
WELL, YES... TRUTH-FULLY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT...
ALSO...IF THAT GIRL IS TO BE BELIEVED...
...THEN ORLÉANS...
REPORTS HAVE IT THAT SEVERAL YOUNG GIRLS ROUTED THE FRENCH ARMY.
YES...

OUTSKIRTS OF ORLÉANS, FORT OF SAINT-LOUP...
Come, come, come to me!
Veni,veni,venias ♪
BISHA (SPLAT)
GUCHU (SPLURCH)

NO, I CAN'T! I'M STILL PLAYING!
LAPIN, COULD YOU GO EASY WITH THE GORE? YOU'RE MAKING A MESS.
Venias♪
Veni!

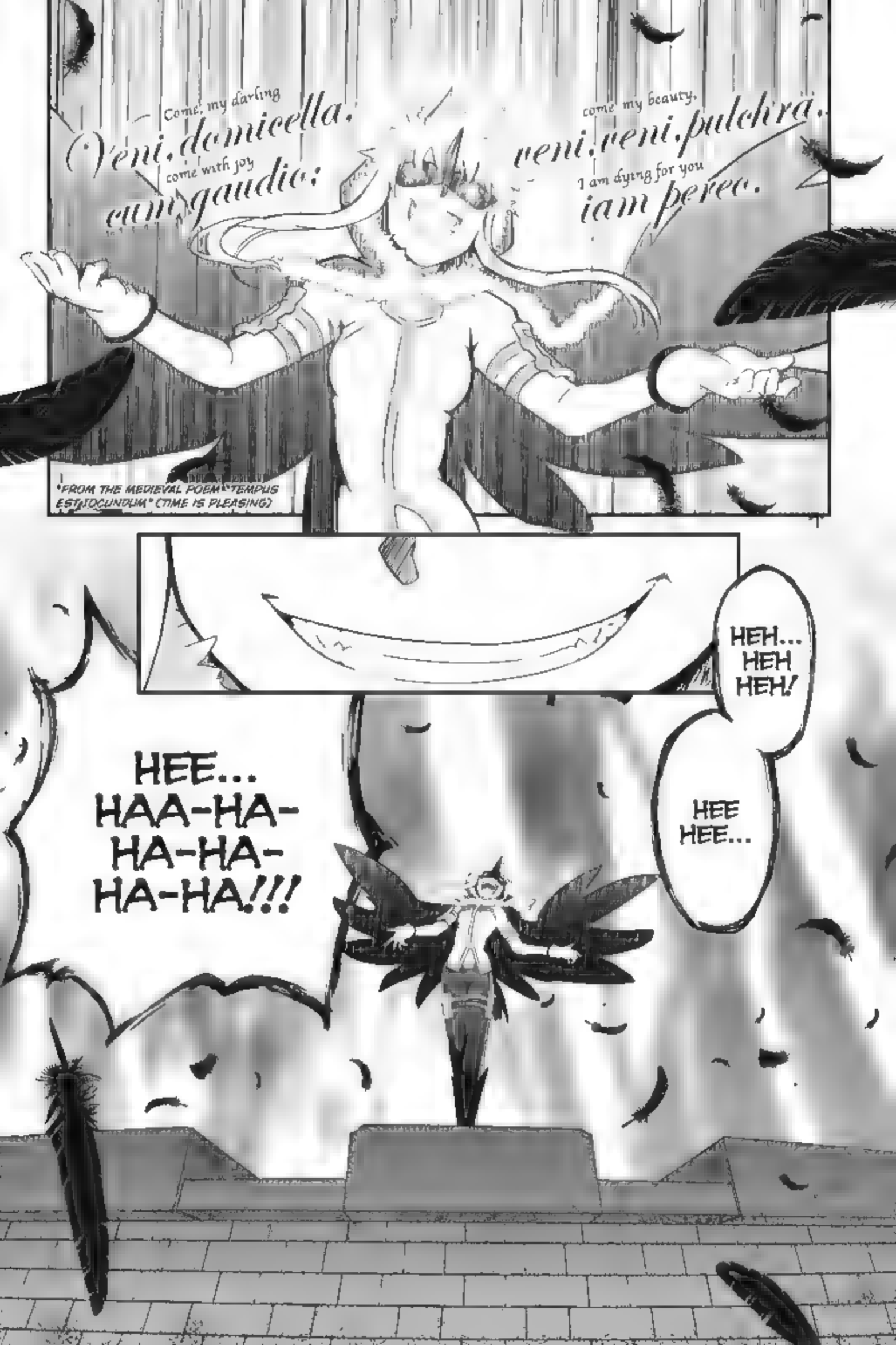
LA-LA-LA
GUCHA

YES, I CAN DO THAT.
HEH HEH
IF I GET DIRTY, THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SCRUB ME DOWN IN THE BATH LATER, CORBEAU. ♪

YOU'RE BACK, MINOU?
WEL-COME BACK!
WERE WE GIVEN ANY ORDERS?
OH?
BULIN GVWMM
LAPIN AND I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO RETURN FOR A SHORT TIME.
YES. YOU AND THIS GIRL MUST STAY HERE, CORBEAU.
SISTERS, I HAVE RETURNED.
EHH!? AND HERE WE'RE ABOUT TO BREAK EVERY LAST PERSON IN ORLÉANS!! WHY DOES CORBEAU GET ALL THE FUN!?

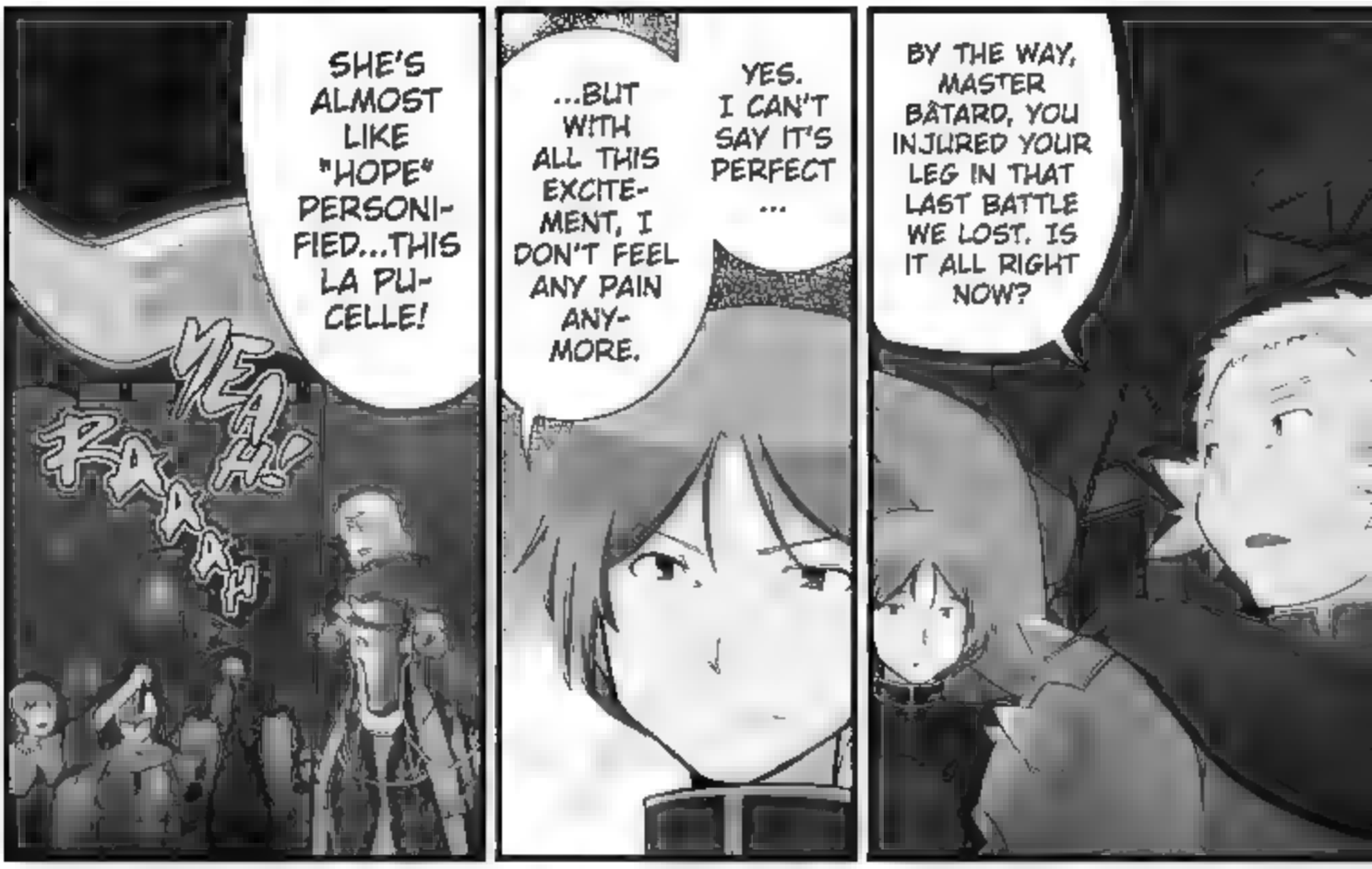
GRRR!
WELL THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
I WANTED TO PLAAAY!
YES. IT IS BAIT TO LURE IN AN ENEMY WHO HAS BEEN BORN TO BRING THE LIGHT.
AS I WAS ABOUT TO SAY...
...OUR ORDERS ARE TO AVOID DEALING THE FINAL BLOW, TO LET ORLÉANS STAND—AS BAIT.
BAIT?
MMM... YES, I KNOW, BUT...
NADE (PET) なでなで NADE
SOME-TIMES WE MUST SIMPLY EN-DURE.
...OUR PRESENCE WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR CORBEAU TO FIGHT, WILL IT NOT?
LAPIN, MY SIS-TER...
AND LAPIN, WE'LL HAVE TO PUT OFF THAT SCRUB I PROMISED UNTIL I RETURN.
UNDER-STOOD, MINOU.
ALSO, I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU MAY DO AS YOU LIKE WITH THIS GIRL.
VERY WELL, CORBEAU. I WISH YOU FORTUNE IN YOUR BATTLES.
BULIN (VWMM)
ブゥン

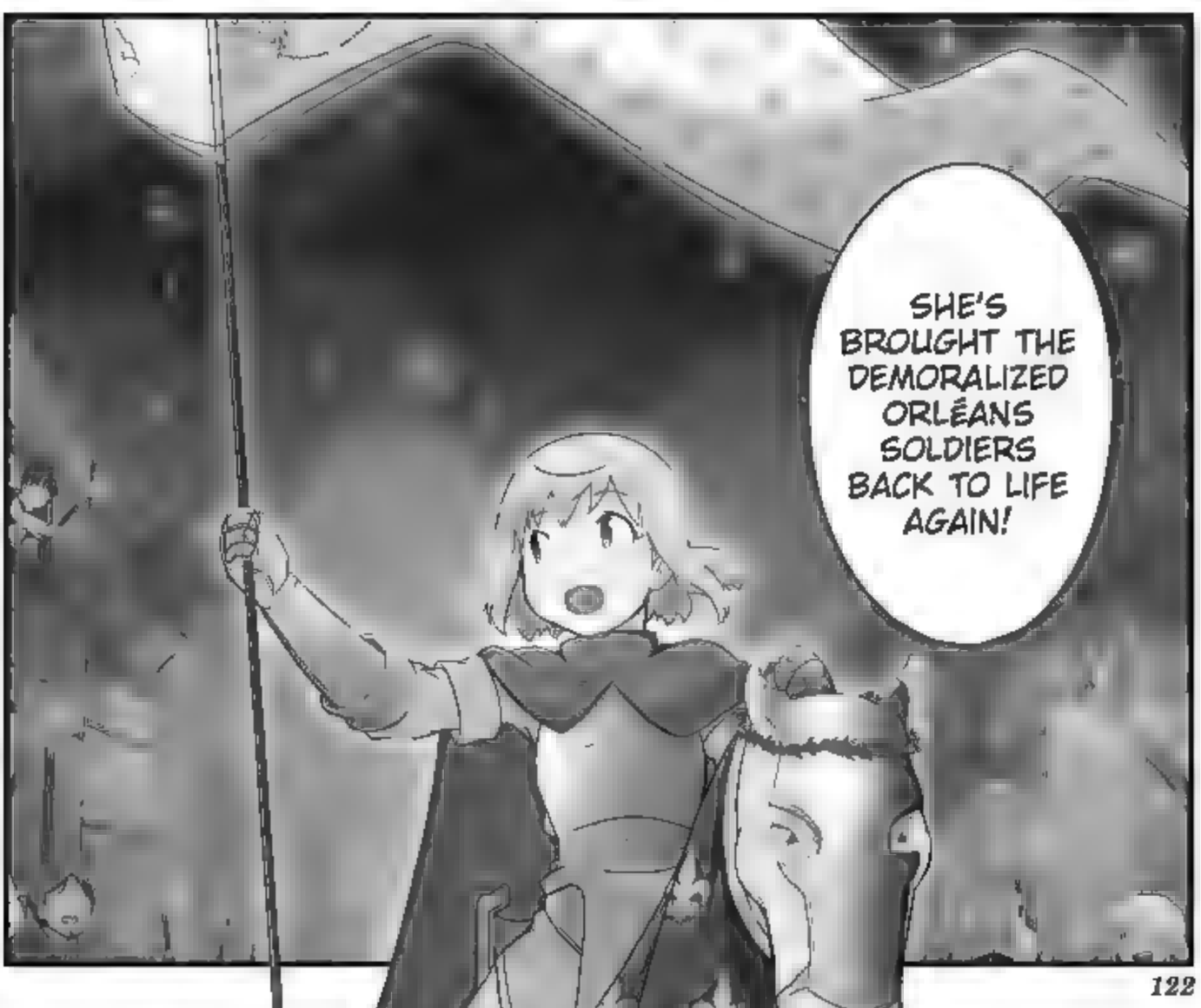
AND NOW...
FUU (FSHH)
YES... I CAN HAVE MY FUN!
NIII (GRIN)
WITH LAPIN AND MINOU ARE OUT OF THE PICTURE...
...THE SHACK-LES BINDING MY POWER ARE GONE!
GICHI (KRIK)
Come, Veni, come, veni, come to me! venias
KA (FWOOSH)

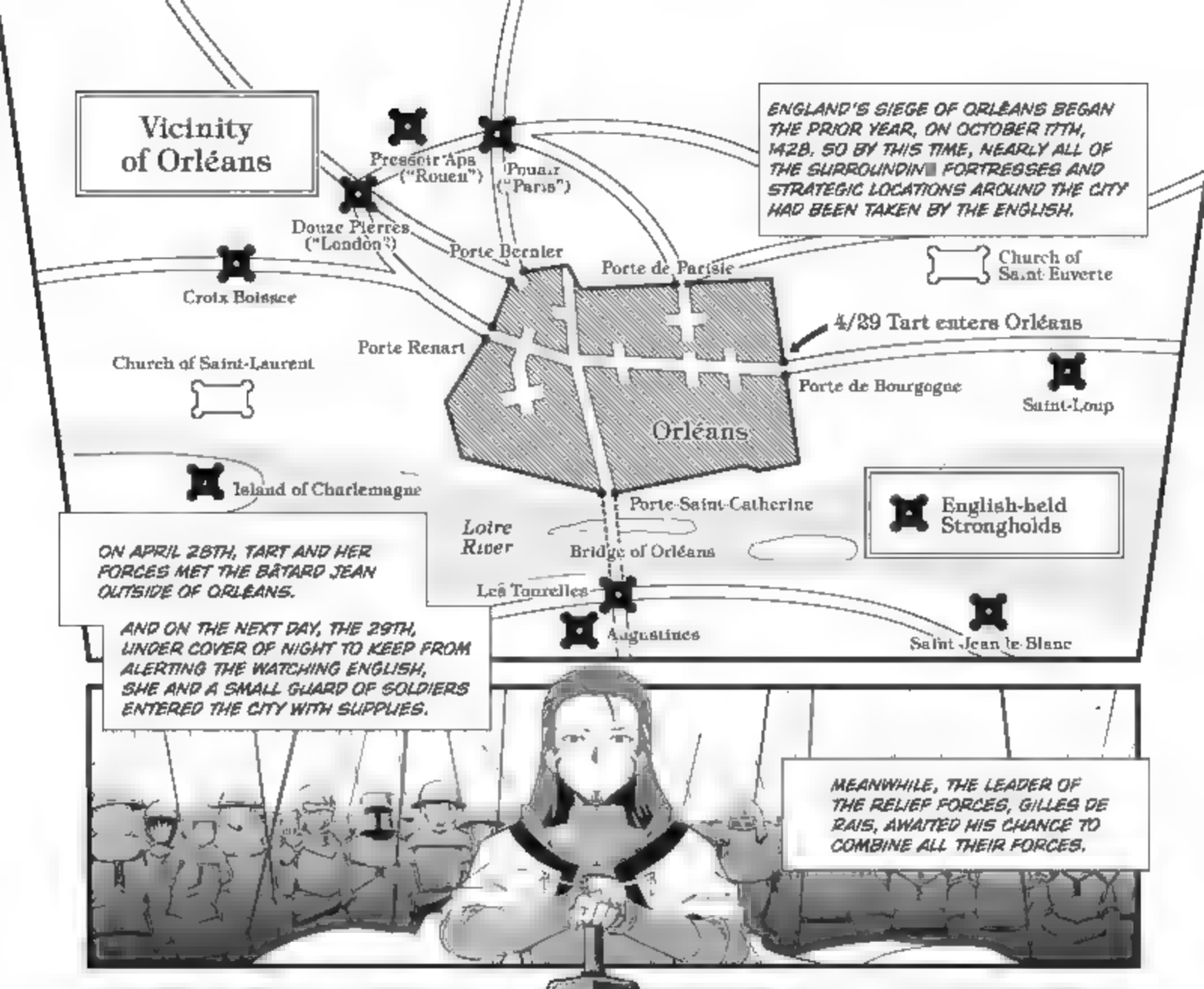

Come, my darling
O veni, domicella,
come with joy
cum gaudio;
come my beauty,
veni, veni, pulchra,
I am dying for you
iam pereo.
*FROM THE MEDIEVAL POEM "TEMPUS EST IOCUNDUM" (TIME IS PLEASING)
HEH... HEH HEH!
HEE HEE...
HEE... HAA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!!

APRIL 29TH, 1429, ORLÉANS BEFORE THE BURGUNDY GATE...
THAT ...
...IS ONE UGLY BANNER.
Y-YOU THINK SO?
I WAS TOLD I COULD CHOOSE ANY PATTERN FOR MY BANNER, SO I EMBROIDERED IT MYSELF.
I THINK IT LOOKS WONDER-FUL!
HEY! WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENGLISH LINES TO GET TO ORLÉANS.
CAN'T YOU MAKE A BANNER THAT WILL STRIKE A BIT OF FEAR INTO THEM? WE NEED SOMETHING THAT THE CITIZENS OF ORLÉANS CAN SEE WELL!
O-OKAY!
NOW, MOVE OUT!
SHD

Chapter 8
11.29.4.29
Orleans


SHE'S ALMOST LIKE "HOPE" PERSONI-FIED...THIS LA PU-CELLE!
YEAH!
RAAAH
...BUT WITH ALL THIS EXCITE-MENT, I DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN ANY-MORE.
YES. I CAN'T SAY IT'S PERFECT ...
BY THE WAY, MASTER BÂTARD, YOU INJURED YOUR LEG IN THAT LAST BATTLE WE LOST. IS IT ALL RIGHT NOW?


SHE'S BROUGHT THE DEMORALIZED ORLÉANS SOLDIERS BACK TO LIFE AGAIN!



ENGLAND'S SIEGE OF ORLÉANS BEGAN THE PRIOR YEAR, ON OCTOBER 17TH, 1428. SO BY THIS TIME, NEARLY ALL OF THE SURROUNDIN■ FORTRESSES AND STRATEGIC LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE ENGLISH.

ON APRIL 28TH, TART AND HER FORCES MET THE BÂTARD JEAN OUTSIDE OF ORLÉANS.

AND ON THE NEXT DAY, THE 29TH, UNDER COVER OF NIGHT TO KEEP FROM ALERTING THE WATCHING ENGLISH, SHE AND A SMALL GUARD OF SOLDIERS ENTERED THE CITY WITH SUPPLIES.

MEANWHILE, THE LEADER OF THE RELIEF FORCES, GILLES DE RAIS, AWAITED HIS CHANCE TO COMBINE ALL THEIR FORCES.

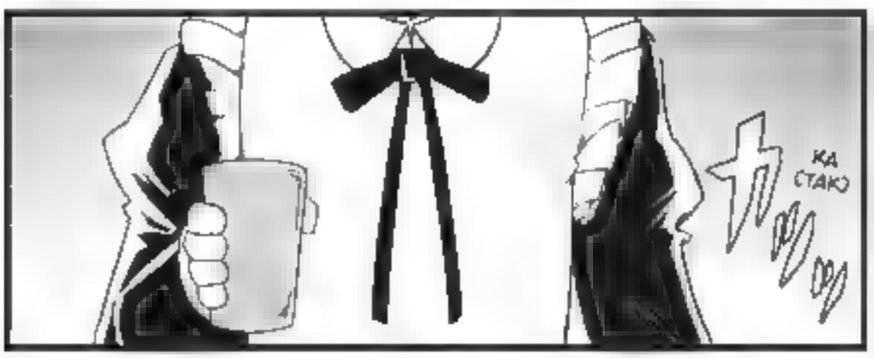
THEN ON MAY 4TH...

...THEY MANAGED TO FORM UP ORLÉANS'S GUARD WITH THE MAIN RELIEF FORCES, AND HEADED BY GILLES DE RAIS, THE FRENCH ARMY BEGAN THEIR COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE ENGLISH.

ON MAY 4TH, THEY RETOOK THE SAINT-LOUP FORTRESS.

ON MAY 6TH, THE SAINT-JEAN-LE-BLANC FORT.

THEN THEY TOOK BACK THE SAINT-AUGUSTINE FORT.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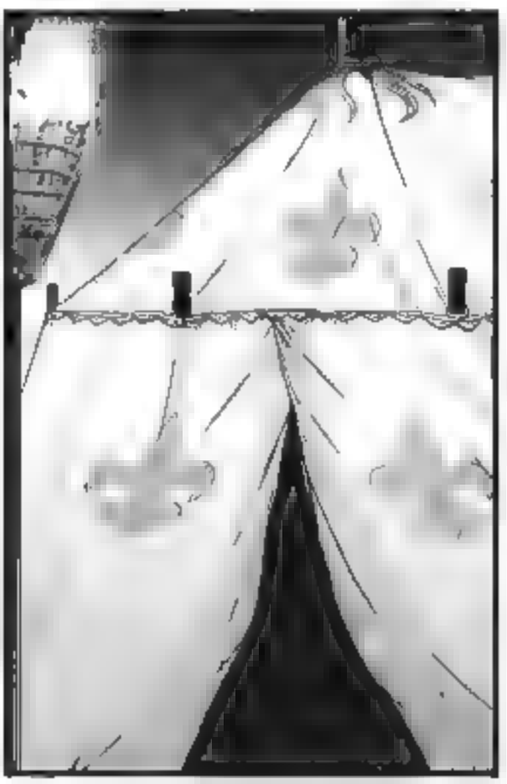


THANK YOU.
THAT WAS WON-DERFUL WORK YOU DID TODAY, TART.

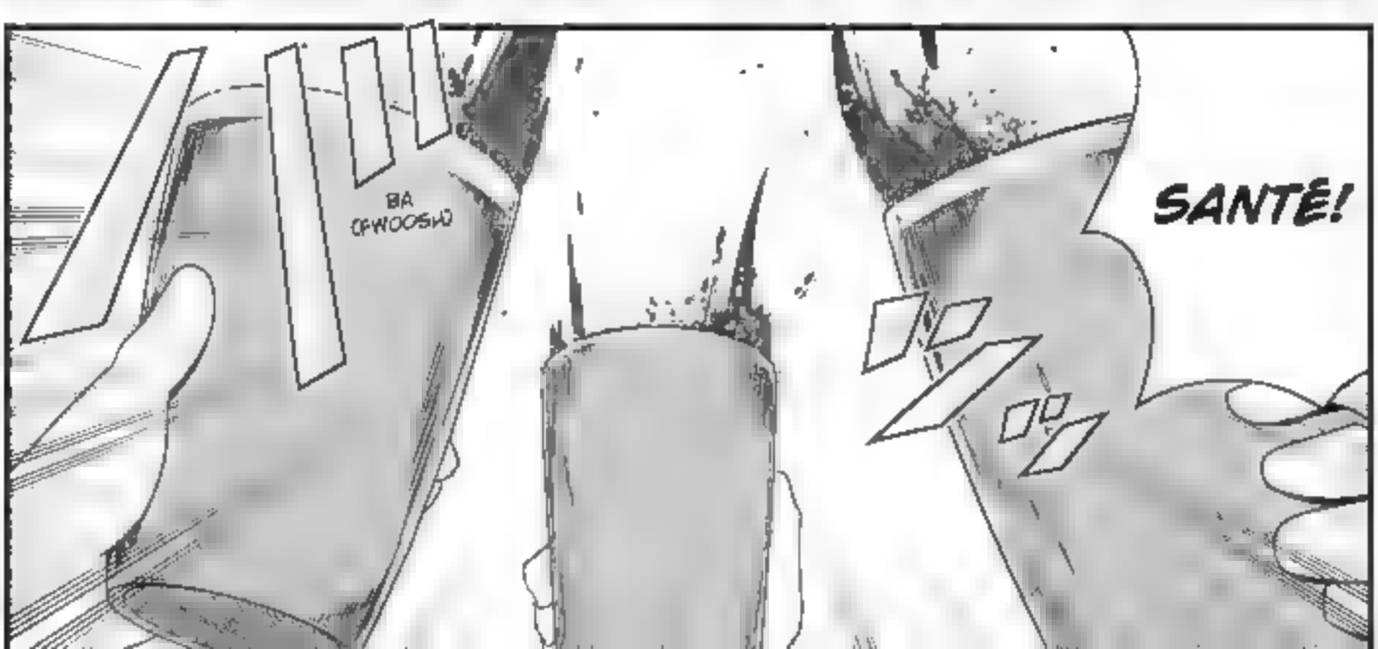
N-NOT REALLY...
SU
CSSKO
YOU WERE SO BRAVE TO STAND AT THE HEAD OF THE FRENCH ARMY.
I ONLY SAW IT FROM A DISTANCE, BUT YOU REALLY CUT A DASHING FIGURE!

YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF SUPPLIES AND NURSING ALL THOSE WOUNDED MEN! YOUR WORK WAS REALLY IMPORTANT!
あわ
AWA (PANIC)
あわ
AWA
Y-YOU WERE BRAVE TOO, MELIS-SA...
きゅ
KYU (GULP)
きゅーっ
KYU
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO.
I WISH I COULD FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU, TART, AND MY FATHER...
IF...I BECAME A MAGICAL GIRL...
...I COULD SAVE FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN I CAN NOW.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME...
... MONSIEUR CUBE SAID THAT I HAVE THE TALENT TO BECOME A MAGICAL GIRL TOO...

EYAAH!
(GABA WHUMP)
NO, YOU MUSTN'T !!

IS THIS... WINE?
YOU AREN'T DRUNK, ARE YOU!?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER TOO!
WAAAH!

HERE WE FINALLY BECAME FRIENDS...
T-TARTI?


BA (FWOOSH)
SANTÉ!

HA HA!
THAT'S THE KIND OF FIGHT WE GET WHEN THEIR MORALE'S BROKEN!
DID YOU SEE THOSE ENGLISH!?
BATA
BATA (STRUGGLE)
IN'A IN'A
THEN WE CAN TAKE BACK LES TOURELLES, THE MOST IMPORTANT FORT IN THE AREA. ONCE THAT'S TAKEN, THE SIEGE WILL BE AS GOOD AS BROKEN.
THIS MEANS WE CAN STAGE A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK FROM BOTH ORLEANS AND FROM ST. AUGUSTINE FORT!
YES... IT SEEMS THIS "DIVINE PROTECTION" OF LA PUCELLE IS, IN FACT, REAL.
HEH HEH...
...BUT!
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ADVOCATE A PASSIVE STRATEGY AFTER ALL THIS.
WHY IS THAT, BÂTARD?
...UNTIL SOME MORE REIN-FORCE-MENTS ARRIVE?
...SHOULDN'T WE PUT OFF TAKING LES TOURELLES ...

I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
BASA (FLAP)
...THEN ONCE MORE THE FRENCH ARMY WILL... THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.
YES... IF WE ARE SUD-DENLY FACED WITH THOSE MASKED GIRLS AGAIN ...
I GET IT...
YOU'RE THINK-ING OF THOSE GIRLS ...?
NO... ...THEN I'M THE ONE TO FIGHT THEM!
SO IF THOSE GIRLS COME BEFORE US AGAIN, THEN WE...
...THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN FACE THOSE MASKED GIRLS.
IT IS PROBA-BLE THAT WE ARE...
MADE-MOISELLE, YOU WANT TO PROTECT LA PUCELLE, IS THAT IT?
"I'M THE ONE TO FACE THEM"... HUH?
...THAT YOU HAVE THE SAME TREMENDOUS POWER THAT LA PUCELLE HAS...
I HEARD FROM MEL S-SA...
I GOT PEOPLE I WANNA PROTECT TOO.
I KNOW THE FEELING.
...!
PIKU (TWITCH)

TART WON'T LET GO!!
FATHER! RIZ!
WHEEEE!
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN' MELISSA?
YEAH, I MAY BE A CRAZY OLD MAN WHO LIKES WAR BETTER THAN HE SHOULD, BUT...
...EVEN SO, I'D EXCHANGE MY LIFE FOR HERS...
SHE JUST CAN'T HOLD HER LIQUOR...
SHE IS, AND I'D SWEAR IT'S ON JUST ONE SWAL-LOW...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
SHE CAN'T BE... DRUNK, CAN SHE?
WHA ...!?
GYU (HUG)
YAAY! IT'S MY BIG SISTER RIZ!

.....A HUGGER... WHEN SHE'S DRUNK!?
SHE'S A HUGGER WHEN SHE'S DRUNK?
WHAT'S THAT?
I SUPPOSE IN THIS CONDITION SHE CLAMPS ON NO MATTER WHO IT IS.
I'VE BEEN HAVING THAT PROBLEM MYSELF.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
SUSUSUSU (SHUFFLE)
スススス〜〃
SU (SHWP)
スw
.....NO MATTER... WHO IT IS!?

AND SHE'LL BE ON THE FRONT LINES TOMOR-ROW!
YA HAD TO KNOW THAT'D HAPPEN! SHE'S A HOLY VIRGIN, AFTER ALL!
AH HA HA
BARON DE RAIS, I ASK YOU TO COME NO CLOSER.
GAAAN! (SHOCK)
WE CAN DO IT WITH LA PUCELLE BY OUR SIDE.
LET'S TAKE BACK LES TOURELLES AS PLANNED.
THAT'S TRUE... I WAS A FOOL FOR GIVING IN TO FEAR.
SHE'S ASLEEP!?
Zzz...

DON (WHAM)
MAY 7TH, LES TOURELLES...
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
GISHI (CLENCH)
WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
GIRI (GRIND)
GIR
SUPREME ENGLISH COMMANDER OF THE INVASION OF ORLÉANS
WILLIAM DE LA POLE
HOW MANY FORTS HAVE WE LOST SINCE THIS "LA PUCELLE" OR WHATEVER SHE'S CALLED APPEARED ON OUR BATTLE-FIELDS!?
GASHA (CLATTER)
...BEEN THREE DAYS...
IT'S ONLY...

HOW MANY MONTHS DO YOU THINK IT TOOK BEFORE WE FINALLY HAD ORLÉANS SURROUNDED !?
HEH HEH HEH ...
IT'S AMUSING THAT YOU SAY "WE"...
PIKU (FLINCH)
M-MADEMOISELLE CORBEAU...
IT WAS OUR POWER THAT ALLOWED YOU TO DO IT, LA POLE.
OOOO (WHOO)
WHY, YES! I QUITE AGREE!
NUU (ZOOM)
...THE SIEGE OF ORLÉANS WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DIFFICULT!
ENGLISH MILITARY COMMANDER
JOHN TALBOT
IF IT WEREN'T FOR MADEMOISELLE CORBEAU'S AND HER SISTERS' EFFORTS ...

YES, THAT SHOULD DO.
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, WE CAN GIVE THEM THE FORT AT LES TOURELLES.
AND IF WE NEED TO, I CONFRONT THE FRENCH ARMY, THE PEOPLE OF ORLEANS..
...AND "LA PUCELLE" AND MURDER THEM ALL.

I HAD IN NO WAY FORGOTTEN YOUR VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS ...
Y-YES...

...I CAN'T CONDONE GIVING UP POSITION AFTER POSITION TO THE FRENCH FORCES...
AS CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD AT THE FORT AT LES TOURELLES ...
ENGLISH CAPTAIN
WILLIAM GLASDALE

I CANNOT AGREE TO THIS!
TH-THAT IS EXTREMELY REASSURING ...
BAN (SLAM)

THIS ARMY IS THE PRIDE OF ENGLAND, AND I, FOR ONE, WILL NOT STAND BY AND ALLOW OUR GOOD NAME TO BE SHAMED FOR ONE MORE INSTANT BY TAKING ORDERS FROM THE MOUTH OF SOME WOMAN...
WHY SHOULD WE EVEN LISTEN TO SOME MYSTERY MASKED WOMAN !?

COME NOW! CALM YOURSELF, CAPTAIN GLASDALE.
NOT WHILE I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

PACHIN (SNAP)
"PRIDE OF ENGLAND," HM? EVER SO IMPRESSIVE...
SUU (SSK)
CAPTAIN! I NEVER! THIS FINE YOUNG LADY—
AH ...!
HUH?
SU (SHP)
GAH...
SHUUU (CRACKLE)

GLAS-DALE?
ARE YOU SHAMED TO BE TAKING ORDERS FROM A WOMAN?
DOSA (THUD)
NOW, IS THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO HAS AN OPINION TO SHARE?
ZURU
ZURU (DRAG)
FLÈCHE, TAKE THIS TRASH AND DUMP IT IN THE LOIRE.
WHAT DID YOU ...?
WH...
COMMANDER LA POLE, MAY WE PROCEED?
I WISH TO SAY THAT I INTENDED TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS FROM THE START.
SHHHH (SILENCE)

ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
THE FRENCH ARE ATTACKING IN FORCE, AND LA PUCELLE IS LEADING THE CHARGE!!
A REPORT'S COME IN!
BAN (SLAM)
M-MADEMOISELLE CORBEAU!
PAAA (GLOW)
AH! SO SHE'S COME ALL THIS WAY?
SHE IS MINE!!
...AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TELL YOUR TROOPS TO FALL BACK!!
LA POLE, LEAVE THIS PLACE NOW! YOU TOO, TALBOT...
KWIN (WEEN)

KATSU
WE'RE GOING, FLÈCHE. YOU ARE GOING TO WORK HARD FOR ME TODAY.
KATSUN (TAK)
SHALL WE BE OFF, COMMANDER LA POLE?
LET'S GO!!
ANYTHING YOU WISH.
DOSU
DOSU (BLOOD)
OVER THERE, HM?
FORWARD! THE FORCES OF ORLÉANS WILL TAKE BACK LES TOURELLES!
AND FREE ORLÉANS !!
RAAAH

KA
(FLASH)
RAAAH!
ZUDO
(STAB)
DO
(STAB)
DO
DO
WHA
...!?
DOSA
DOSA
(THUD)

SO YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.
THE REST OF YOU, GET BACK.
HOW I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DAY!
NII (GRIND)
ENCHANTÉ, LA PUCELLE.
YOU ARE...
...A MAGICAL GIRL FROM EN-GLAND?
SUU (SHIP)

GA (GRAB)
I AM COR-BEAU.
BUT, AS YOU WISH.
PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU
URGH..
YOU UNDER-STAND NOTHING?
EN-GLAND? OH, I SEE...
HEH HEH!
WHAT!? LET HIM GO!!
GAAH!!
GRU SQUEEZE
TO PUT IT SIMPLY...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?
CHA (KCHK)
I AM YOUR ENE-MY.
GUSHA (SPLATCH)

GO
(WHUD)
TART
!!
URHN...
GUSHAA
(CRASH)

GA
(FLINCH)
TO
(TMP)
BA
(LEAP)
BUO
(LUNGE)

GYUO
(SLASH)
USHU
(SPURT)

YOU SEEM SO MUCH MORE FUN THAN THAT TIMID HOLY MAIDEN OF YOURS!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!
YOU (GLOW)
BI (SLASH)
GIIN (CLANG)
ZUDO (WHAM)
...NO ONE CAN...
... HOLD OUT LONG FIGHTING THIS WAY...
MAYBE SHE CAN HEAL HER WOUNDS WITH MAGIC, BUT...
THIS ONE... HAS NO INTEREST IN PROTECTING HERSELF...

WHA ...!?
JIWAAA (BEEEP)
DOKA (WHAM)
THERE'S NO WAY MY SOUL GEM, COULD GET SO IMPURE SO SOON...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT...
GI (GLARE)
I THINK YOU'VE BECOME AWARE OF IT, AND SO QUICKLY TOO.
OH? AN INTER-ESTING EXPRES-SION.

.....
SHUUUUUUU (FSHHHHH)
...YOU'VE GOT MAGIC THAT PUSHES YOUR WOUNDS ONTO OTHERS SO YOU CAN RECOVER!
WHAT !!?
...ARE ALL PUSHED ONTO THE MAGICAL G RLS IN THE VICINITY.
FROM ATTACK STRENGTH, DEFENSE, AND HEALING TO EVEN THE NORMAL ACTS THAT REDUCE MAGICAL POWER...
MY MAGIC ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING.
RIGHT TRACK, BUT JUST SLIGHTLY OFF THE MARK.
...BEEN AFFLICTED WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF IMPURITY!
...HAS NEVER, NOT EVEN ONCE...
MY SOUL GEM...

YES!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
RIZ...
TART!
GUGU (STRAIN)
PACHI (SNAP)
SORRY, HOLY MAIDEN, BUT I'M PLAYING WITH THE GIRL IN BLACK RIGHT NOW.
NO! I'LL FIGHT WITH YOU!
SU (SHK)
THEN STEP BACK. I WILL TAKE THIS ONE...
BI (SHP)
BI
UNH!!

BA
(TURN)

TART
!?

AND SHE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH TART'S DEFENSES...

AN ARCHER...
GOUGO
(WHOOO

NULL
(LUNGE)
YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR OWN BATTLE!

GAKI!
(CLANG)
...GOT A TRICK UP MY SLEEVE!
HYU
WHOOSH
I'VE STILL...
DO
(WHOOM)

HEH HEH!
ONCE I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH BEHIND MY POWERS, I KNEW YOU'D TRY WHAT EVERYONE TRIES!
WELL, WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO BUT A.M FOR THIS?

I THOUGHT YOU'D TRY THAT!

ZUDO (CLASH)

BUN (WOOM)
GA (OSH)
GA
GA

GASHI (GRAB)

HYU (WHOOSH)
FLÈCHE!
RIZ!!
TA (DASH)
AAAH!!
DO
DON (SHNK)
CHUN (SHOOM)
DO
ZU (ZMM)
SO YOU CAN STILL MOVE? I'M SO GLAD!
ZU
ZU
ZU
GUGU (STRAIN)
TART...!
TART...

TOSU
TOSU (STAB)
ZU
FLICK
I CAN'T... MOVE...
GUGU (STRAIN)
YOU WITCH!!
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU QUITE A SHOW— FEATURING THE BLOOD OF YOUR HOLY MAIDEN!
JUST STAY THERE AND WATCH QUIETLY!
FURA (STAGGER)
GO (WHIID)
YOU WON'T LAY A FINGER ON HER!!
NOW, MADE-MOISELLE HOLY MAIDEN, THE FINAL KILLING STROKE.
KA
KA (TAK)

YOU'RE JUST A HUMAN!
YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE!!
GUSHA (SMASH)
GICHI (KRRSH)
GUH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
GA (STOMP)
GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
GOBO (BATTERED)
BUT IF I DON'T HELP MY FATHER...
GET BACK TO THE REAR!
MELISSA! NO! GET AWAY FROM THE FRONT LINES!!
FATHER! FATHER!!
TA (TMP)

ZUOOO (BWOOM)
FLÈCHE, MAKE SURE NOTHING IS LEFT OF THAT MAN.
HOW UN-PLEAS-ANT!
EH?
KAAA (GLEAM)
MELISSA, NO!!
BA (LEAP)

(BOOM)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MELISSA?
SHUUUUU (FSHHH)
T-TART...
THANK GOOD-NESS...
...YOU'RE... ALL RIGHT...

TART!
TART! TART!!
DOSA (THUD)
SOME-BODY!
SOME-BODY, PLEASE, HELP THEM!!
IF NOBODY HELPS THEM, BOTH TART AND MY FATHER WILL...
SU (SSK)

THE MAGIC OF YOUR "LA PUCELLE" IS GROWING STEADILY WEAKER AND WEAKER!
HA-HA! CAN YOU FEEL IT?
TART IS... MY...
GAKU (SLUMP)
TART... HOW COULD YOU...?
GUGU (GRIT)
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SAD!
NII (GRIND)
DON (WHOOM)
AND YOU'LL BE FOLLOWING RIGHT AFTER HER!!
THE HOLY MAID IS LEAVING ON A JOURNEY TO DEATH!

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT...?
WHATEVER THE FUTURE...
KIIIN (GLEAM)
WHATEVER FATE MAY AWAIT US...
...I TOO...
...WILL FIGHT ALONGSIDE THEM AS A MAGICAL GIRL!

■ The Age of Jeanne: The Night Before Orléans

Of Jeanne d'Arc's many achievements, the one that is most celebrated in history is her role in lifting the Siege of Orléans. In the years and centuries after, movies, plays, other dramatic performances, and books illustrating her success always feature Orléans as a centerpiece.

But how did Orléans become besieged?

The Loire River forms a natural border between northern France and the south of France, with England controlling nearly all of the northern region, including Paris, at the time. Facing the vital task of invading the southern half of the country, England appointed the Earl of Salisbury, the man considered to be England's greatest warrior, to be supreme commander of the invasion. He was equipped with seven thousand men-at-arms, and in June of 1428 the Earl and his soldiers started their march to Orleans.

Moving southward from Paris, the English forces had to subjugate the villages and towns along their way. Even though the troops supporting the Dauphin Charles were few, the trip south took four months, and they arrived at Orléans on October 12. Some troops crossed to the south side of the Loire, encircling the city and bringing it under siege. On October 17, the battle began.

At the time, the Duke of Orléans, who should have governed the city, had been a prisoner of the English ever since the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. With the rightful lord gone, governing duties were performed in his stead by Raoul de Gaucourt, and Orléans was defended by several cannons positioned on the city walls and less than a thousand soldiers.

Cannon were still a very new weapon during this age, and some say this was the cannon's first use as a defense against siege warfare. The town was supplied with some seventy-two cannons, but these were first-generation cannons, and they had many defects and drawbacks. First, the "shot" (the stones with which the cannon was loaded) took nearly an hour to prepare. Aiming was also problematic, and since the "shot" was nonexplosive, even if the aim was true, each barrage would only take out the few soldiers who had been hit directly. They didn't have enough power even to punch through barriers, so considering their cost, the weren't as effective as one might think in intimidating or impressing enemy soldiers.

Still, even though they were difficult weapons to use, the cannon did manage to create problems for the English forces. On October 24, while scouting the situation in Orléans and developing a plan of attack from one of his opposing fortresses, the Earl of Salisbury was hit by a shot from one of the cannon of Orléans. The wounds were grievous and put the Earl on the verge of death. Salisbury was evacuated for treatment in a nearby town, but he died ten days later. After that, the overall command fell to William de la Pole, but he commanded as a part of larger power structure that included other military commanders such as John Talbot.

The next day, October 25, French reinforcements arrived, including the "Bastard of Orléans," Bâtard Jean, and "The Rage," La Hire.

As his nickname indicates, Bâtard Jean was the illegitimate brother of the rightful Duke of Orléans, and he took charge of the defense of the city in his elder brother's stead. Even though the French defenders were low on supplies and suffering, they did manage to fight the enemy to a stalemate from October all the way until the new year.

On February 10 of the following year, 1429, information reached the long-suffering French army of Orléans. Bâtard Jean learned that a small English reinforcement and resupply division was heading south, and seeing his chance, he sent a request for extra troops from France's ally, Scotland. His plan was to overwhelm the reinforcing army on February 12.

And as noted in Chapter 5, there was a battle in a town near Orléans called Rouvray, but despite the overwhelming numbers that should have ensured France and Scotland's victory, they suffered a crushing defeat.

Many French captains died that day, and the overall commander, Bâtard Jean, was shot in the leg, though he was somehow rescued from the battlefield alive.

They say that the defeat was caused by the Scottish force's unwillingness to cooperate with the French and the fact that they were facing English longbows which, although the English's numbers were limited, could not be withstood by the allied army. The English reinforcements had brought a huge load of pickled herring with them, and much of their supply was spilled in the fighting, giving the incident the name "The Battle of the Herrings."

The French defeat meant that the besieging English forces were increased and the siege strengthened. On the other hand, the Orléans forces had a worsening supply problem and a wounded commander. La Hire went back and forth many times to the palace of Chinon with continued requests to the Dauphin for money, supplies, and reinforcements.

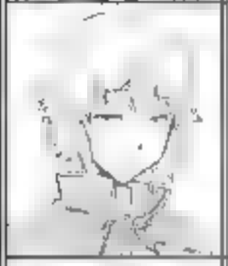
Unfortunately, France did not have enough financial resources to grant all that La Hire was requesting, so for the most part, the fate of Orléans was considered sealed. The fall of the city was simply a matter of time.

That was the situation in Orleans at the time. Just as France was heaving a sigh of despair, a rumor reached the court at Chinon.

The rumor told of a maiden sent from God to save France.

■ Robert de Baudricourt

The leader of the garrison at Vaucouleurs and a councilor to René, the brother-in-law of the Dauphin Charles. When La Pucelle requested an audience with the Dauphin, he was the very first person in power to believe in her. He is reported to have said to her as she left Vaucouleurs, "Va, va et advienne que pourra," which means, "Go, go and come what may." In English, the statement may seem as if he doesn't care, but in French it has a nuance of entreaty and encouragement.



■ Jean de Metz

A squire of Vaucouleurs. He was one of the witnesses who testified about La Pucelle's red clothes, the first time he met her in Vaucouleurs, the things that happened on the road to Chinon, and how he was moved by the words she uttered in his presence. Even now, there is a small road leading from the keep at Vaucouleurs called "Passage Jean de Metz." It's possible that he lived on that road during the time of Jeanne.

■ Bertrand de Poulengy

Another squire of Vaucouleurs who, like Jean de Metz, accompanied Jeanne to Chinon. He also gave quite a bit of witness testimony regarding La Pucelle and indicated that he had been to Domremy many times to visit La Pucelle's family. He was probably ordered there as a part of the investigation into her life, but it's thought that he also held a deep faith in La Pucelle.

■ Jean de Dunois ■ Bâtard d'Orléans (The bastard of Orléans)

The illegitimate child of Louis de Valois, the Duke of Orléans and a part of the French royal family. As a cousin and the same age as the Dauphin Charles, he was raised alongside the Dauphin until they were both ten years old. Because of that, the Dauphin named him the man he could most rely on, and the Bâtard took that seriously, taking up a sword at the age of sixteen and fighting for his country ever after.

■ Étienne de Vignolles ■ La Hire (The Rage)

A mercenary born in Prechacq-les-Bains in the Gascony region of southern France. He took up soldiering at an early age, and his nickname came from how quickly he could be riled to anger. True to his nickname, he earned a reputation far and wide for his severe fighting style. He was hired by the Dauphin in 1418 and fought for him from then on. In France he is associated with the Jack of Hearts in a deck of playing cards.

■ Gilles de Montmorency-Laval ■ Gilles de Rais

The head of the prestigious noble family Laval and a subordinate of the Duke d'Anjou, a central player in the side supporting the Dauphin Charles. Gilles inherited his estate at eleven years old when his parents died, and he was raised by his grandfather on his mother's side. His mother's side of the family was the pedigreed Craon family that included the second Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Robert de Craon. And since there was no male heir bearing the Craon name, Gilles was set to inherit nearly all of the wealth from both sides of his family, meaning that as a young nobleman he was promised more wealth than the king. It's said that he later became the model for the French children's story, *Bluebeard*.

■ Georges de la Trémoille

The Grand Chamberlain of the royal court of the Dauphin Charles. The Grand Chamberlain is the highest civil post in the Kingdom, and Georges buried quite a number of political opponents to attain the position. He was also a very wealthy man, and by loaning money to the impoverished state commanded by the Dauphin Charles, he gained an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes influence on the royal court. Gilles de Rais is a distant cousin of his.

■ Charles de Valois

The fifth son of the previous French King, Charles VI, and the crown prince (Dauphin) of the French monarchy. By 1417, all four of his older brothers had died, and Charles was named crown prince. But not long after, the alliance of England and Burgundy forced Charles VI to sign the Treaty of Troyes, denying his son Charles his birthright as heir to the throne. A Burgundian chronicler wrote that Charles VII was extremely thin, gangly, and weak-boned with an odd, wavering gait. It was a pretty awful description, even from an enemy political faction.

■ René d'Anjou

Brother-in-law of the Dauphin Charles and second son of Yolande d'Aragon. Since Robert de Baudricourt had a close relationship with him as his councilor, Rene agreed to see La Pucelle and played a central role in acting as a go-between when she requested an audience with the Dauphin. At the time, he was in a rather difficult position—while his family's main house were supporters of the Dauphin Charles, the rest of the d'Anjou family were supporters of England. This left him stuck between a rock and a hard place. His decision and actions led to results he never anticipated.

■ Yolande d'Aragon

The Dauphin Charles's mother-in-law, and the daughter of King John I (John the Hunter) of the Kingdom of Aragon in the north of modern-day Spain. She and her husband, the Duke of Anjou, provided support for the Dauphin Charles when he was chased out of Paris and arranged for his marriage to her daughter, Marie. She and her husband were central players in the Dauphin's faction at a time when the strength of the allied English and Burgundian faction seemed overwhelming. At the same time, they opposed the strength of La Trémoille's position which led to infighting within the royal court.

■ William de la Pole

The commander of the English forces besieging Orléans. He ascended to the position following a field promotion after the previous supreme commander died. He had been a soldier from the time of his youth, but in terms of age, battle experience, and popularity with the troops, he did not measure up to John Talbot. The single deciding factor that allowed him the position was his higher rank in the peerage, and perhaps it was for that reason that he was obsessive about the task of invading Orléans as soon as possible.

■ John Talbot

A man with a reputation for being an excellent military commander and a captain at the Siege of Orléans. He appears as an intelligent and popular commander character in Shakespeare's play, *Henry VI, Part 1*, and he is also known in British literature as the English Achilles. They say he was even admired by the French for his long military history and for his pattern of always treating his enemy with respect.

■ William Glasdale

An English military captain. In the Siege of Orléans, he commanded some five hundred men at the strategically vital fort of Les Tourelles, but it's said that at the height of battle, he met an unexpected end when he fell into the Loire River and drowned. They say he viewed the sudden addition of La Pucelle to the French army with open disgust, and rumor suggested that his ignominious death was divine retribution for the insults he threw at her.

Puella Magi Tart☆Magica
The Legend of Jeanne d'Arc
Vol. 2

Based on the story by
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Assistant
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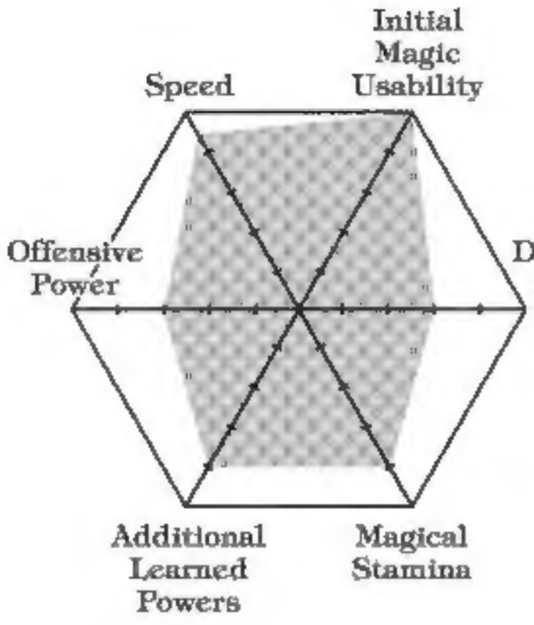
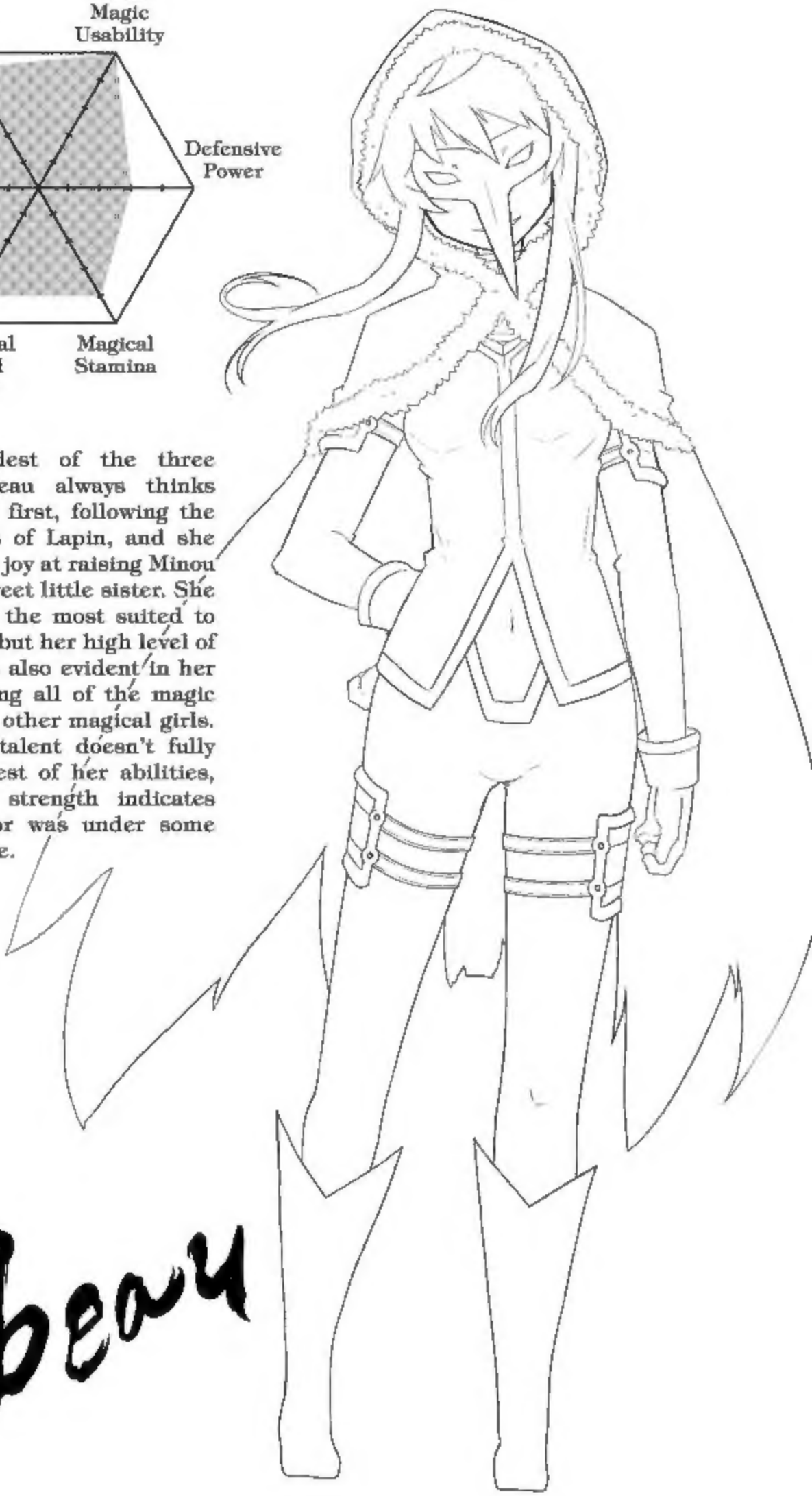
GOOD WORK!

Reference books used for this book will be listed in the last book of the series.

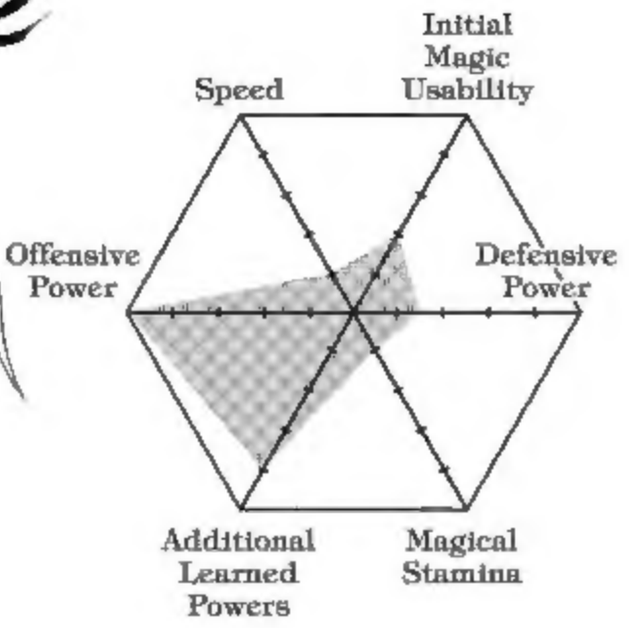


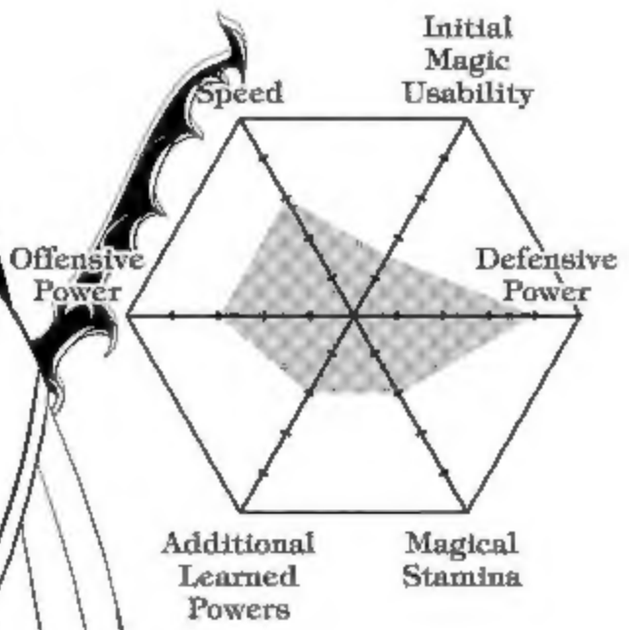
Second eldest of the three sisters. Corbeau always thinks of her sisters first, following the selfish whims of Lapin, and she can't hide her joy at raising Minou into such a sweet little sister. She is considered the most suited to open warfare, but her high level of intelligence is also evident in her idea of pushing all of the magic she uses onto other magical girls. Because her talent doesn't fully explain the rest of her abilities, her amazing strength indicates that she is or was under some other influence.



Corbeau

Flèche Lame





Flèche means "arrow," and *lame* means "blade." The three sisters always have these two in tow, and for whatever reason, they seem to have no will of their own.

After Lame was defeated by Tart and her friends, Minou somehow turned her into a witch—and apparently a rather high-powered one.

Flèche has an extremely high magical attack that can break through even Tart's strong defenses, but because her abilities seem to go beyond mere talent, it doesn't seem like a natural development.

PUELLA MAGI
TART☆MAGICA ❷

MAGICA QUARTET
MASUGITSUNE
KAWAZU-KU

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